

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's 3d Army Corps launched a surprise offensive in the southern sector on the night of 27-28 January, capturing defined targets on three fronts and inflicting heavy losses on the Iranians, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. The Iraqi land attack followed a 27 January Iraqi air raid on shipping in the Gulf in which two "maritime targets" were hit south of Khark Island, according to a military spokesman's statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, shipping sources cited by the *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed that a missile fired by an Iranian jet struck a Greek tanker 40 miles from Ra's Tanura the same day. The paper said the missile hit one of the ship's ballast tanks but failed to explode.

In a separate development Iraq accused Iran of shelling "civilian targets" in the Basra Governorate on 26 January, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters, in an IRNA interview, denied Iraq's charges as "completely baseless."

Lebanon

The Cabinet will discuss the economic situation in an extraordinary session on 28 January following Education and Labor Minister Salim al-Huss' decision to withdraw his resignation, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Prime Minister Rashid Karami had announced the postponement of the Cabinet session the previous day because of Al-Huss' threatened resignation, according to Beirut radio, and Minister Nabih Birri had warned that he would reconsider his own position in the Cabinet if Al-Huss resigned. Birri noted that Al-Huss was "frustrated and disgusted" with the present situation, especially the economic deterioration.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Prime Minister Karami will visit Damascus on 29 January. Earlier, the radio broadcast Karami's statement that the Al-Naqurah talks with Israel will remain suspended until Lebanon receives the answers it requires. In Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed the breakdown in the Al-Naqurah talks, telling his Cabinet on 27 January that the military negotiations with Lebanon have "apparently" ended completely because of the latter's "impossible" demands, Jerusalem radio reported. As for UNIFIL, the radio disclosed that UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart has instructed UNIFIL to prepare for a UN headquarters order to deploy in the areas evacuated by the IDF. Nevertheless, Syria continues to oppose UNIFIL's deployment in the Sidon area because it fears that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would use the UN presence as a cover to reestablish a PLO infrastructure in the refugee camps there, the radio asserted.

Meanwhile, an Iranian official has visited the Al-Baq' al-Khaimi to make arrangements for the withdrawal of all Iranian guards from the area to Iran, according to the Voice of Lebanon radio.

Tabah Talks

While Egypt and Israel are expected to present their position papers at the second session of the Tabah talks on 28 January, differences in the two countries' stands were evident at the 27 January session, Jerusalem radio noted. Citing Israeli sources, the radio reported Israel's view that the Beersheba discussions should lead to "interim arrangements," while the final Tabah arrangement should be debated in "another forum." Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isma' 'Abd al-Majid, in an interview with *AL-AHRAM* quoted by *MENA*, reiterated that the 25 April 1982 agreement must be implemented without compromising concessions and that the Tabah issue should be referred to "international arbitration" if the talks fail. The head of the Egyptian delegation emphasized at the first session that "any official" Israeli forces' presence in Tabah would be unacceptable, according to IDF radio.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad issued a "special pardon" allowing repentant Muslim Brotherhood "Vanguard Organization" members to return to Syria, according to an Interior Ministry spokesman quoted by Damascus radio. This pardon, the spokesman said, follows recent contacts with Vanguard leaders abroad who have expressed "new convictions" in light of a plot against Syria's steadfastness.

Jordan

King Husayn, in a letter to Prime Minister Ahmad 'I. Baydal broadcast by Amman television, criticized local journalists who write against tribes, families, traditions and norms.

YAR

GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, on an official 8-day visit, discussed bilateral relations and cooperation with his YAR counterpart and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Sanaa radio reported.

Iran

Musavi in Nicaragua — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, at a press conference ending his 3-day visit to Managua, denied President Ronald Reagan's statement that the objective of his visit was to assist Nicaragua in "terrorist activities" and providing arms, IRNA reported.

Tripartite Talks — Iranian, Syrian and Libyan ministers discussed a coordinated campaign against "imperialism and Zionism" during talks in Tehran on 26 January, IRNA announced.

DRA-Pakistan

Afghanistan has protested to Pakistan over cross-border shelling on 19-21 January that killed 16 people in the Barikowt area and damaged two DRA helicopters, Kabul radio reported.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq, in an interview with newspaper editors reported by Karachi Overseas radio, confirmed that the 25 and

28 February general elections will be held under the strict guidelines he announced on 12 January. When asked about DRA violations of Pakistani territory, the president said Pakistan will continue to act with restraint and protest such violations.

Western Sahara

A Moroccan OV-10 plane was shot down on 21 January in the Dakhla area, according to a Saharan Information Ministry communique cited by Algiers radio.

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cease-fire on 10 June 1982 with Philip Habib. They thought that 2 or 3 days after that date — after the huge Arab force was removed from the battlefield — we would be finished. We remained there 80 more days. We then were surprised by a dagger pointed at our backs. Then the tragedy began [words indistinct] when a double siege was clamped on the Palestinian revolution in Tripoli [words indistinct]. They wanted to defeat their own people when they stood in one trench with Israeli naval and air units to besiege the Palestinian revolution in Tripoli.

Imagine, if this did not happen, what would have happened to the Palestinian revolution? The great victory that we are beginning to see in southern Lebanon against Israel would have been doubled and we would be fighting in the Palestinian forests, all of us together. We would have created another Vietnam. Regrettably, Israel was saved by two things over the past 10 years, the Camp David agreement and the Camp Murphy agreement, which was signed recently between the Syrian regime and the United States through its envoy, Murphy.

[Al-Kashif] This Palestinian march, which is full of bloody but great battles, poses a question. After the Lebanese events and the PNC, what is the direction of this political march, especially in view of the present proposals — an initiative by King Husayn to which, it is said, a PLO answer was given and Joseph Sisi's attempt to reactivate Reagan's plan?

[Arafat] One thing must be clear: Regardless of the Arab press speculation, we lost 72,000 Palestinians killed or wounded in Beirut, and 10,500 were killed or wounded in the Tripoli battles. Nevertheless, the United States continues to say there is no PLO. Moreover, they are becoming more brazen and saying there are no Palestinian people. They say the Palestinian people are attached to various regimes. Therefore, I say: Do not seek solutions that are in fact capitulation and not peace. We approve a peaceful, just solution, a comprehensive solution in which all parties take part on equal footing, including the PLO, and under the UN flag, to be attended by the major powers. We say this, but there is a big difference between this position, which is rejected [sentence incomplete]. The moment it was announced that the Middle East problem was reported to have been discussed in the recent Gromyko-Shultz talks, Israel raised a hue and cry and announced its rejection of everything. We hope we are not counting our chickens before they hatch.

As for the talks and discussions between us and our Jordanian brothers, they are being conducted in an atmosphere of understanding. We know why they say we have accepted Resolution 242. This is because they accepted 242, because Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon accepted 242. Most Arab states accepted 242. However, in Cairo, in 1974, our PNC issued the 10 points in which we said that 242 did not meet the national rights of the Palestinian people. We reject it, not because we are against Israel's withdrawal, this will confuse the situation, and we say that this resolution concerns the Arab states and Israel. However, this resolution dealt with the Palestinian problem as one of refugees. I would like to remind people.

Then came the U.S.-Soviet statement of 1 October 1977 in which the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and Palestinian representations were mentioned. Then talks were held between the

then Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat. Arafat stated (in 1980, I remember) following that the second American visit in 1982 was about 21 and 22 with the word "refugees" mentioned in 34 minutes. Both Arafat and Israeli refugees.

Therefore, we say that we have taken a stand. There is an Arab consensus in the Arab press through the various newspapers [indistinct]. We were the first to accept the Israeli initiative, and then we accepted the U.S.-Soviet initiative, and then we accepted the Egyptian initiative, and then the Security Council. We also did not withdraw this initiative, and we have seen what benefits our people and what harm to the situation.

[Al-Kashif] A few days ago, we mentioned the recent announcement for the Palestinians to withdraw from Egypt's withdrawal. Do you think you will withdraw from it because you have information in Beirut, Palestinian sources?

[Arafat] Yes, all my beloved brothers and brothers-in-arms here. They are at the side of the Lebanese revolution in southern Lebanon. They are making two out of one: confidence and steadfastness, an expression of Lebanese-Palestinian common operations. I say there is an Israeli plan to withdraw from our party of Israeli agents taking part. They want to expect what happened in the Sabra and Shatila carnage. I say this while knowing that our people do not let us down. However, I have the right to sound the alarm. I wish a committee of Arab States and the Security Council were to deal with this. The UN knows it, not want to deploy in the north — not secure. Syria is on this deployment north of the Al-Litani River — it is a good idea, some UN force to deploy in the north all types of troops and Al-Miyah wa Miyah. However, the situation is complex. What can I say? In any case, I will keep my position that of all things, the Lebanese Government and all the Arab States that are in Lebanon responsible.

As God is my witness, I have conveyed the message. However, I would like to assure [words indistinct] that Sabra and Shatila will not be repeated. I say this with confidence, because our people and friends and Lebanese state will confirm this attempt.

[Al-Kashif] How do you react to a second war?

[Arafat] We do not care. We do not expect to live more than one day. However, they themselves talk about their lives even if it is the life of dogs. By God, we do not care about our lives. I would like to remind them of this slogan, which is a political slogan: One meeting is in paradise. By God, I will meet the son of paradise.

[Al-Kashif] You are now in Baghdad. Is there any new development in Iraqi-Palestinian or in the Iraqi-Iranian war, particularly since you are [words indistinct]?

[Arafat] My brothers and I, as well as my people, are proud of this intimate, strong, and fraternal relationship. Here I would like to say that despite my brothers' eagerness, in this war they are standing firmly alongside the Palestinian cause. They do not hesitate for one moment to help their brothers, Palestinian fighters.

As for our efforts in this war... as brotherly love and justice... brother Muhammad Lutfallah began speaking on the radio in Baghdad... in his speech in Warsaw... I expressed to the Soviet leadership and now I repeat for you... as always... we know deep-shedding Muslim blood... there were some more attempts to religious considerations and in the midst of our people's liberation war... I appeal to them to give this war and a great great effort, so they can institution... national efforts to... as always... they should choose what they want... the same result... in the same circle... it is an obstacle to the peace... Israel... and Islamic world... Jerusalem is appealing to them... because... all these resources were directed at Palestine... you and I would be sitting in Jerusalem.

'Arafat Views Syrian Plots, Ties With Egypt

JN75770 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasar 'Arafat] has affirmed that the Syrian regime is deeply involved in a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian revolution. He said that the Syrian regime should lead the Syrian struggle to liberate the Golan before leading the Palestinian struggle to liberate Jerusalem.

In press statements, brother leader Abu 'Ammar urged Arab leaders to convene an Arab summit without adhering to the principle of unanimity, as was the case during the Amman summit when five countries were absent, but the summit was convened. During that summit, useful decisions were adopted that were later recognized by all Arab countries. He said that going contrary to this would mean capitulation and paralyzing Arab capabilities.

Concluding his statement, Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the PNC resolutions on relations with Egypt were based on the conviction of the vanguard role Egypt should play regarding its historical responsibilities toward the Arab nation.

PLC Radio Notes 'Arafat's Statements in Tunis

JN76168 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasar 'Arafat] has stressed that no side has the right to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians except the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

In press statements published in Tunis yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that what is taking place in Lebanon is a hideous plot against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the Syrian regime agreed to cease fighting after the Beirut siege and only 4 days after the battles. However, he said: "We continued the fighting and our steadfastness in the face of the Zionist forces so that our present and coming generations will not accuse us of relinquishing Beirut."

PLC Official Denies South on USSR, E. Europe Visit

JN75770 Baghdad KLS in English 1010 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, Jan 25 (KLSA) — PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad 'Abbas denied press reports claiming that the Executive Committee delegation to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Hungary early this month had a two-day stopover in the officials in those countries.

The delegation included Muhammad 'Abbas and his colleagues in the Executive Committee Muhammad 'Abbas.

Muhammad 'Abbas told KLSA Thursday the delegation had met with ranking officials in the three countries visited.

He added that all officials he and his colleague met in those three countries had agreed their countries' support to the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab League's Klibi Views USSR Mideast Role

JN75770 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 2015 GMT 24 Jan 85

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified announcer] One of the most noteworthy recent developments was the announcement by McFarlane, chief U.S. adviser on national security affairs, that Moscow and Washington, after an interval of 7 years, are renewing the consultation on the Middle East. In my opinion this is an unequivocal admission of the fact that the separate U.S. policy that strives to exclude the USSR from Middle East processes has not been successful, since, without the coordination of the interests of the two big powers, there can hardly be a reassuring agreement. The question is whether this dialogue on the Middle East can lead to the international conference proposed by the USSR, which has so far been rejected by both Israel and the United States. I spoke about the problems of the divided Arab world with Chodli Klibi, the Arab League's general secretary, in Tunis.

[Begin recording] [Klibi in Arabic with superimposed translation] What is the situation? If Israel rejects every peace program, how can we reach any kind of solution? That is the problem here. It is not up to us, it depends on whether Israel wants peace or war, and especially on the goals of the United States, which supports Israel in every field. However, I must add that a lot also depends on the other big power, which, we are finding, is showing a certain passivity. It is a fact that our relations with the Soviet Union are very good and friendly, that the friendship we have evolved with the Soviet Union is solid and ever growing. However, it is my duty as a friend to add that for years the policy of the Soviet Union has been characterized by a certain restraint. Somehow it lacks the dynamism as characteristic of it, for example, before the war.

[Announcer] I cannot agree with this opinion of yours, since, on the contrary, in my opinion the activity of the Soviet Union is just now growing.

[Kilbi] Excuse me, but do you expect a friend to say only nice things to you?

[Announcer] On the contrary.

[Kilbi] If I keep on being polite, the [Soviet] will lack self-respect and become useless. A friend should be honest and say what he really thinks.

[Announcer] But... but, Mr Secretary General, do not forget that in the Lebanon war it was not the Soviet Union that was present; all the Arab countries concerned in the affair simply kept quiet. It was Arjaf who told me.

[Kilbi, interrupting] What do you want to achieve by this? What are you trying to say? Look, politically they were not quiet, since they all condemned the war. However, what could they have done against this huge Israeli military power? Is there an Arab country even now that is capable of opposing Israel, which is armed to the teeth, to which America gives unlimited support?

[Announcer] However, in recent months the power relations have changed a little.

[Kilbi] I do not see it like that. However, if you can say something new, [sentence unfinished].

[Announcer] There are new developments. However, to come back to positivity... The United States has an excellent ally in the region... Israel. The Soviet Union also needs such an excellent ally to make it possible for it to be even more dynamic in the Middle East. Think of the favorable change that occurred in Lebanon. I wonder if this could have come about without the presence of the Soviet Union. To what can one thank the fact that Syria and the Lebanese...

[Kilbi, interjecting] That is so, that is so.

[Announcer]... were able to remove the U.S. soldiers from Lebanon? Only to the fact that the Soviet Union militarily strengthened Syria?

[Kilbi] You are right. That is correct.

[Announcer] Without the Soviet Union, Syria could hardly have won?

[Kilbi] You are right, you are right. The Soviet Union deserves great credit for what happened in Lebanon, but you know.

[Announcer, interrupting] It is not so simple, to chase the Americans away.

[Kilbi] You are right. Let me also add to this that what is now happening in the Iraq-Iran war — that is, the fact that Iraq is decisively able to confront the Iranian attacks — is primarily thanks to the Soviet Union. I do not debate this. I do not debate whether the Soviet Union is a friend or not. I only look forward to better times.

[Announcer] Recently, numerous favorable changes have taken place. Last year the Lebanese patriotic forces and Syria failed to control a majority of the United States and Israel in Lebanon. Israel and America primarily lost that war, in practice, because Israel was unable to achieve a single political objective in the war.

[Kilbi] That is an injustice!

[Announcer] In this war, a small role was played by the Soviet Union's dynamism and support.

[Kilbi] Yes, Yes. There is no doubt about the Soviet Union's role. I do not debate this. However, the steadfastness of the Lebanese people is also responsible.

[Announcer] Yes. It played a big role.

[Kilbi] All this is also thanks to Al-Assad, the Syrian president [and recording].

AL-RAYAH: PLO-Syrian Dialogue To Resume

GE261011 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Doha, 7h, 4th (WAKH) — The press in Doha today quoted reliable Palestinian sources as saying that the next 2 weeks will witness intensive Palestinian contacts between various Palestinian factions to resume the dialogue between the PLO and Syria.

The sources told the Qatari newspaper *AL-RAYAH* that a Palestinian delegation led by PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ad and including PLO Executive Committee members 'Awad al-Ghazwan and Muhammad Milhim will visit Damascus shortly to end the current estrangement, to begin a dialogue between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships, and to end inter-Palestinian differences.

The sources said Syria has welcomed the visit by the Palestinian delegation, which will include independent personalities who are respected and accepted by all parties. This move will come amid indications that Syria has exhausted all means to create an alternate national front to the PLO, now that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the PFLP have rejected the idea. Only the dissidents want an alternate front because it will save them from their current predicament.

The sources emphasized that phone calls have been made between a senior Palestinian leader and a Syrian vice president. These calls resulted in an agreement to work together to remove differences and begin the dialogue, despite recent political decisions by the Syrian Ba'ath party regional congress.

Fatah Rally Held in Damascus 25 January

Al-Ahmar, Al-Fahum Speak

JN252011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Fatah held a rally at the Tishrin Sports Hall in Damascus this evening on the Palestinian revolution's 20th anniversary. The

rally was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; a number of Ba'th Party regional and national command members; Comrade Hasan 'Aja, regional secretary of the Jordanian branch; Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official PLO spokesman; a number of PLO Executive Committee members; a number of Palestinian faction leaders; and Samih Qadri Abu Kuwayk, secretary of the Fatah Provisional Command. The rally was also attended by George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; Brigadier Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra, chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; a number of Arab liberation movement representatives; a number of Arab diplomats; and a large number of guests.

The rally began with a 1-minute silence in honor of the Arab nation's martyrs. Afterward, the Syrian and Palestinian national anthems were played.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar delivered the Ba'th Party speech. He said: Brother strugglers, Palestinian fighters: On the same month 20 years ago your revolution was born. It was the Palestinian people's revolution against injustice, aggression, and occupation, a revolution for struggle toward liberation, return, and regaining Palestine. This revolution's first spark began with fighters from the Al-'Asifah forces that belong to the Fatah movement. Those fighters fired the first bullet from Arab Syria — Syria, which has always been on the side of Palestine.

Comrade Al-Ahmar said: The Palestinian rightists' deviant course will not achieve more than what agents have achieved in other Arab countries or than what their imperialist and Zionist masters have achieved. It is not strange for the Palestinian revolution, whose birth had a resounding impact on the Arab masses and the world's free people and was the beacon for all strugglers with which they sought to regain their national identity toward a bright future and which has achieved great victories, to stumble for a while when some of its ranks became bored with the struggle, became a burden, and defied the strugglers' wish. In this case, the Palestinian people and their revolutionary factions bear the responsibility for protecting the revolution and its continuation.

You are today voicing your determination to continue the revolution and protect it because this is the only way to ultimate victory.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed that people who have had a long history of struggle, made many sacrifices, and are willing to offer more sacrifices cannot be defeated. He said that the will of such people will triumph. The slogan that you are reiterating today — It is a revolution, a revolution until victory — will be achieved at your hands and at the hands of Arab revolutionaries and strugglers, who, whenever obstacles and difficulties intensify, become more determined to continue until victory. He said: On this occasion, we renew the pledge, determination, and affirmation from Arab Damascus, from Arab Syria, that Syria will provide you with unlimited support without any restrictions. Syria, today, is as it has always been, and will continue to be the bastion of Arab struggle and the main base toward liberating Palestine and achieving the Palestinian people's victory.

Comrade al-Ahmar said: The Palestinian issue and revolution were the main concern of the party's eighth congress which was held few days ago. The leader of the Ba'th Party and Syria, who now embodies the Arab masses' aspirations throughout the homeland, emphasized this fact when he said at the beginning and end of the congress that this congress is just as much for Palestine as it is for Syria. Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed that Syria and Palestine stand in one trench — the trench of struggle until victory and liberation.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum delivered a speech in which he affirmed that the Palestinian revolution's relationship with Syria is indivisible and fateful. He said: We must proudly remember that Syria under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party had a large role in the birth of the Palestinian revolution and in caring for it until it became well established. The Fatah movement reflected this by its constant affirmation that Syria is the revolution's lifeline and that there will be no revolution without Syria. History will testify to the joint action between the Palestinian revolution and the 8 March Revolution and that it was during hard and difficult times that this cohesion suffered some upsets.

Al-Fahum added: The heroic, glorious, steadfastness against the Zionist forces of invasion, the multinational forces, and U.S. hegemony will testify that this heroism was created by the real alliance between the Syrian forces, the Palestinian forces, and the nationalist Lebanese forces led by the National Democratic Front and the Amal movement. He said: We reject the division and deviation Yasir 'Arafat is leading these days. We insist on the PLO's unity and affirm that unity can only be based on complete adherence to the Palestinian charter and the PNC resolutions. The Amman meeting is void and cannot possibly be regarded as a national council. It is an illegitimate and illegal meeting. He said: Syria today is our impregnable fortress and the source of our strength, steadfastness, and our great expectation under the unionist Arab struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Meeting Disrupted

JN271314 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 85 pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman — AL-DUSTUR — The Fatah movement dissidents have further been divided into two groups. One of the groups is under Samih Abu Kuwayk, also known as Qadri, former member of the Fatah Central Committee, and the other group is under Colonel Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, the dissidents' military commander. The two factions appeared during the Fatah dissidents' celebration of the 20th anniversary of the revolution which took place at the Tishrin Hall in Damascus on the night of 25 January when banners were raised in the hall. The parties clashed, and guests escaped through the rear windows of the hall and fell into fresh cement which the Syrian authorities had prepared to build a wall around the hall.

Reports from Damascus say the two parties differ on the so-called broad national front or national salvation front as an alternative to the PLO's legitimate leadership.

Reports also say that Syrian security authorities were forced to interfere and cancel the celebration because many people were injured. The exacerbation of the crisis between the two parties

made the Syrian authorities express their discontent yesterday over the dissidents when they received some Palestinian figures in the Syrian arena.

Palestinian Central Council To Convene Mid-Feb
LD25/1729 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 25 JAN 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (TAP) — The PLO Executive Committee has decided to convene a meeting of the Palestinian Central Council in mid-February after consultations with PNC President Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

The Palestinian Central Council meeting will be the first since the 17th PNC session in November in Amman. It is the intermediary body between the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC, which includes some sixty Palestinian deputies.

The PLO Executive Committee, chaired by Palestinian leader Yasser 'Arafat, approved several matters of political and administrative character, notably the establishment of the Administrative Council of Palestinian National Funds.

Several other decisions have been made by the PLO executive body to strengthen the resistance of the Palestinian people within the occupied Arab territories and to step up the fedayeen's operations in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon.

PLO's Al-Ghusayn Denies International Differences
LD26/214 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 26 Jan 85

[By Nabil Baradi]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 26 (KUNA) — A senior Palestinian official Saturday expressed doubts over the validity of new U.S. or other western countries' Mideast peace initiatives.

Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee member Jawid al-Ghusayn told KUNA that this plan merely aims at pre-empting and instigating differences among the Arab ranks in general and the Palestinian lines in particular in a bid to wipe out the PLO's role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"Why don't they pressure the Zionist entity to implement the U.N. resolutions instead of tabling new initiatives," he remarked.

Al-Ghusayn regretted that "a number of the Arab countries attempt to convince us with new initiatives instead of insisting on the application of international resolutions that call for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the implementation of the Palestinians' right to return and self-determination.

The PLO Executive Committee member emphasized that the organization maintains a clear and stable speculation toward a just and comprehensive Mideast peace settlement.

Al-Ghusayn, who was replying to a question by KUNA on the PLO's policy toward the Mideast crisis, negated reports and

rumors which on certain occasions are directed in the form of accusations against the PLO and the Palestinians that they do not know what they want.

The important thing is that most initiatives do not fulfil the minimum demands of the Palestinian people's national rights, he added.

The PLO had repeatedly announced that it accepts "the Fes Arab summit plan and the international resolutions that prohibits the occupation of lands by force and stipulates the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland and compensate those who do not want and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," Al-Ghusayn explained.

Al-Ghusayn, meanwhile, asserted that no strategic or tactic differences exist among various Palestinian revolutionary organizations and underlined that all believe that liberation of Palestine is the prime target and that armed struggle is the basic mean to attain that end.

"We are legitimately empowered to use all available methods of struggle to restore our lands and rights usurped by aggressors helped by evil international forces," he said, adding there is no need for elaborating on illusory differences between Palestinians fabricated by forces hostile to our people and cause.

He rejected describing leaders of the commando movements who did not attend the 17th session of the Palestine National Council as "traitors".

They are all honorable strugglers for the sake of the Palestinian cause, he said, adding "I reveal no secret if I say that I maintain constant and direct contacts with them through the telephone because I believe in the importance of continuing national dialogue for the sake of the higher national interests."

"We are all committed to the PNC resolutions," he underlined.

Asked on the reason for increasing the number of the Palestine National Fund members from 20 to 25, Al-Ghusayn who is assigned by the Executive Committee to head the fund, said: "We wished to employ talented financial figures to ensure adequate usage of the fund and to enable us to live up to our commitments toward our people in the occupied lands."

Head of the fund denied that the increase was due to reported financial mismanagement and underlined that no official, no matter what his rank may be, can ever [word indistinct] more than his budget allocations passed by the Executive Committee.

Financial and material assistance to the Palestinian people are channeled through the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee and the PNE, the PLO official said.

"We are now launching a new positive plan aimed at finding work opportunities for our unemployed brothers and sons in the occupied lands who total around 27,000," Al-Ghusayn said, noting that according to special studies "we need 18,000 dollars for each person."

"We thus hope that the Arab leaders would continue financial assistance to the PLO as stipulated in the Baghdad Arab summit and we are planning to impose taxes on Palestinians working in the private sector to collect necessary funding," Al-Ghusayn, an independent figure in the Executive Committee elaborated.

Asked on the role of independent figures in the committee, he said that they have gained more positive role and said that nothing has been discussed so far on whether an independent figure will replace the late Fahd al-Qawasimi in the committee.

Al-Qawasimi, who was assassinated late last year in Amman, was also an independent figure.

Israeli Vehicles Attacked in South Lebanon

JN251743 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance men set off high explosive charges as a Zionist military vehicle was passing near Habbush in Al-Nabatiyah. The vehicle was destroyed and all of its occupants killed. A Zionist spokesman admitted the operation. He said that two Zionist officials and the head of intelligence of the so-called army of southern Lebanon were killed. The Zionist spokesman added that the Zionist military governor of Al-Nabatiyah was among the victims of the explosion. He said that his forces besieged the area in a futile search for the resistance men.

Explosives, which were planted by the resistance men on a road near Dayr al-Zahrani, exploded as a Zionist military vehicle was passing. The Zionist vehicle was destroyed and all of its occupants either killed or injured. A Zionist military spokesman also admitted this operation. He claimed that only two of his men were injured. He said that the Israeli forces besieged the area and carried out an extensive search for the resistance men who withdrew safely to base.

Palestinians Reportedly Head for Mountains

NC251448 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1430 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Our correspondent in the Al-Biqā' has indicated that Palestinian gunmen have left Barr Ilyas in Ta'labaya and headed for the mountain region via Dahr al-Baydar.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Detailed

JN271732 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have resumed their operations against the Zionist occupation forces and the forces of the so-called army of southern Lebanon. The resistance men attacked a Zionist military position in the area of Jall al-Bahr near the southern city of Tyre this morning. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns and rockets, destroyed the Zionist position, and killed or wounded its Zionist soldiers.

The resistance men also attacked two positions belonging to the forces of the so-called army of southern Lebanon at the northern entrance of Sidon this morning. The attack, which was carried out with machine guns and rockets, resulted in direct hits scored at the two positions. Several agent personnel were either killed or wounded.

The Zionist military spokesman who admitted the three operations declined to mention losses and said that the Israeli and agent forces cordoned off the areas of the operations and launched a large-scale search campaign for the resistance men. However, these attempts were in vain.

Reportage on Meeting of Followup Committee

Iraqi Minister Makes Statement

JN261440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 26 Jan (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has reiterated Iraq's support for the collective resolutions OPEC is adopting, particularly those that restore stability to the oil market and safeguard member countries' interests.

In a statement to the INA correspondent on his arrival in Geneva today to participate in the meetings of the ministerial followup committee of which Iraq is a member, which is to prepare for the extraordinary OPEC conference on Monday, Taqi said that the most important topics OPEC ministers will discuss will deal with the difference in price between light and heavy oils and how to overcome the instability prevailing in the oil market.

In reply to a question on the possibility of decreasing the official prices adopted by OPEC, Taqi said that Iraq does not favor any decrease in official prices, that is, \$29 per barrel; but if OPEC countries unanimously wish to do so, then Iraq will not oppose this. The Iraqi minister said that OPEC will decisively confront challenges to undermine the world oil market's stability, thus affecting OPEC countries' interests.

The Iraqi minister said the difference in price between light and heavy oils must be between \$2.50 and \$3.

Ministerial Committee Meeting Ends

JN262102 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Geneva, 26 Jan (INA) — The OPEC ministerial followup committee ended its meetings here tonight. Dr Mani' Sa'id al-Utaybah, head of the ministerial committee and UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, told the press at the end of the meeting of the six-member ministerial committee that the committee recommended maintaining the official OPEC price of \$29 per barrel and to keep the production ceiling at 15 million barrels per day.

Iranian, Venezuelan Oil Ministers Meet

LD271347 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA — Members of OPEC pledged to maintain oil prices in a meeting before Monday's official opening of the cartel's ministerial session in Geneva.

OPEC's market monitoring committee has recommended that the organization should maintain the \$29 per barrel base price and the 16 million barrels per day production ceiling.

The UAE Oil Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah, who chairs the committee, stressed that the committee will make the necessary recommendations to the ministers in this respect.

The Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi, speaking at today's session of the monitoring committee, pledged Iran's support for the current base price and production level. He said if there was the slightest possibility for a drop in the market oil price, OPEC should lower its production to counter it.

Meanwhile, Gharazi conferred with Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines, Arturo Hernandez, this morning and discussed ways of maintaining OPEC's official base price and production level.

AFP: OPEC Facing Open Split Over Prices

NC280743 Paris AFP in English 0722 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Geneva, Jan 28 (AFP) — OPEC countries are facing an open split over oil pricing policy, as a key panel last night failed to reach a consensus on policy for consideration at the cartel's third ministerial conference in three months here today.

Conference sources said that leading OPEC members, including Saudi Arabia, are prepared to cut OPEC's "marker" crude price of 29 dollars a barrel, perhaps by two dollars, as part of an adjustment of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries official price range.

All members, they said, agree that an adjustment is needed. But one group of countries, including Algeria, Libya, and Iran, is holding out firmly against tinkering with the benchmark price, because, the sources said, they feel this would send the "wrong signals" to the market.

A seven-nation ministerial committee, chaired by Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, has been looking into ways of narrowing present differentials between official prices for light and heavy OPEC crudes. But the panel failed to reach a consensus on a clear-cut recommendation last night, and Algerian officials said there was an "impasse".

GULF AFFAIRS

Iran Missile Strikes Greek Tanker 27 Jan

GF280555 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English
28 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Iran last night struck at a Greek tanker only 40 miles off Ra's Tannurah in its first foray into the neutral waters in recent weeks.

The Greek tanker *Serifos* was in ballast five miles from the *Juaymah* light vessel when she was struck by a missile believed fired from an Iranian Phantom jet at 1805 local time. The missile struck the ship in one of the ballast tanks and failed to detonate, according to shipping sources in the Gulf. There was no fire and no assistance was required.

The same sources said they were sure it was Iran who was responsible for the raid and not Iraq.

The raid is the first in the area by Iran since June when Saudia F-15 fighters shot down an intruding Iranian F-4.

It was also the first attack by Iran following an almost daily run of attack claims by Iraq in the operational area around Khark Island.

KUWAIT

Sabotage Trial of Five Iranians Begins

GF270528 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English
27 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Kuwait's state security court yesterday began the trial of five Iranian expatriate workers charged with conspiring to undermine Kuwaiti institutions and commit acts of sabotage in the country. They were identified as Hoseyn Sadeqi, owner of a sanitary equipment showroom; 'Abdolhasan Salami, a taxi driver; Hasan 'Abdi and Abdolhasan 'Abdi, both tailors; and Gholam Akbar, a barber.

In a brief opening session, the prosecutor accused the five of complicity in planning sabotage of the 40-storey building of the Ministry of Information, to which Kuwait's radio and television are annexed. The five were also accused of unlicensed possession of ammunition with which they planned to manufacture explosives, and in joining an unspecified underground group aiming to "spread a destructive ideology". No further details were given from the trial, which later continued behind closed doors. The court was presided over by Counsellor Ghazi al-Sammar.

There is a clear link between the trial of the five Iranians and that which started last week of a 22-year-old Kuwaiti national also charged with subversion and the spreading of an ideology aimed at undermining Kuwait's "basic values". The trial of Mehdi Gholoum has been continuing in secret.

Sources said the six accused were believed to be members of the pro-Iranian Al-Daawa Party, the Islamic fundamentalist under-

ground group which was blamed for the spate of bomb attacks against the U.S. and French Embassies.

State Minister Comments on Lebanon, Arab Summit

LD261904 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has stated that most problems from which Lebanon is currently suffering are a result of the Israeli occupation of its territories.

In a press statement reported by KUNA, he said that the Israeli enemy is now claiming through the Western media that its withdrawal from Lebanon will usher in fighting among the various Lebanese factions and will create endless civil strife which will distract the Lebanese from rebuilding their country and the commitment to its unity.

Concerning the current situation in the Arab League, Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the league as a political body is affected by the Arab disputes and by the existing situation in the Arab homeland. He said that the weakness of the Arab nation is clearly reflected in the performance of the league; thus it cannot carry out executive moves without Arab unanimity on such moves. In this concern the minister stressed that the specialized organizations of the league are doing their jobs properly.

The minister announced that an Arab summit seems remote in the current circumstances, and any summit meeting will not be beneficial but will only lead to an increase in divisions, if it is held without unanimity. He pointed out that Kuwait did not receive any information concerning a four-part Arab summit, which was discussed recently, to include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon.

As for the Venice statement issued by the EEC countries in 1980, the minister of state announced that the Arab countries adhere to it because they see it as an umbrella for any European presentation concerning the Middle East crisis, mainly because the statement included guidelines rather than details. He stated: The importance of the statement stems from the fact that it represented a European stance separate from the American stance and constitutes an advanced framework for any independent European initiative, especially if we take into consideration that the European countries, whether together or individually, are unable to move independently from the American position.

OMAN

Tanzanian President Arrives for Visit

EA261910 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1700 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Muscat: President Nyerere received a warm welcome when he arrived in Muscat today for an official 1-day visit to Oman aimed at boosting relations between Tanzania and Oman. When Nyerere's plane entered Omani airspace it was escorted

by four aircraft as a mark of respect and understanding between the two developing countries. President Nyerere was welcomed by the Omani leader, Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Received by Sultan

GF261212 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Julius Nyerere, president of the United Republic of Tanzania, arrived in Oman today on a 2-day official visit.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id was foremost among those who received President Julius Nyerere and the delegation accompanying him at the private Sultani airport. The Tanzanian president was accorded an official welcome.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id shook hands with President Julius Nyerere on the tarmac. President Nyerere then introduced to Sultan Qabus the senior members of the delegation accompanying him. His Majesty also introduced the senior members of his entourage to the Tanzanian president. They are: Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; Qays ibn 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Khalfan ibn Nasir al-Wuhaybi, minister of electricity and water and head of the mission of honor escorting the visiting president; Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib, interior minister; and Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Sultan Qabus and his guest, President Nyerere, then went toward the rostrum and the honor guard, comprised of men from the Sultani Guards Brigade, saluted. The Tanzanian and Omani national anthems were played. A 21-gun salute was fired in honor of the Tanzanian president.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id then accompanied his guest to the VIP room at the airport, where they had Arabic coffee. Following a brief rest, the procession of Sultan Qabus and President Julius Nyerere and his delegation proceeded from the private Sultani airport through the streets of the capital to Al-'Alam Palace in Muscat.

The Tanzanian president is accompanied by a delegation including (P. Makawa), minister of state for foreign affairs [name and title as heard]; (M. Makami), minister of health; (K. Kondo), mayor of Dar es-Salaam; Major General (I. Tombi), of the presidency; Mr G.W. (Botoko), the president's private secretary; 'Abdallah Suedi, the Tanzanian ambassador to Oman; and senior officials and advisers in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Joint Talks Begin

GF261700 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] A session of formal talks was held at Al-'Alam Palace this evening between His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and His Excellency Julius Nyerere, president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The talks were attended on the Omani side by Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Mubarak ibn Salih al-Khaduri, minister of health. On the Tanzanian side the talks were attended by (P. Makaya), minister of state for foreign affairs [name and title as heard]; (M. Makaya), minister of health [name and title as heard]; and Abdallah Suedi, the Tanzanian ambassador to the Sultanate. During the talks they reviewed the situation in the Arab and international arenas in addition to the relations between the two countries and means of bolstering them.

Following the talks Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, made a statement to the media in which he said: During the talks between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and His Excellency Julius Nyerere, the Tanzanian president extended an official invitation to the Sultan to visit the United Republic of Tanzania. His Majesty accepted the invitation and promised to specify its date later. He said that during the talks, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries. He added that relations between Oman and Tanzania are old historical relations.

In his statement he said that the two sides have agreed to develop relations and exchange visits by officials in both countries for the purpose of consolidating relations. The minister of state for foreign affairs added that during the talks the Tanzanian president, who is the present chairman of the OAU, briefed His Majesty on African issues and the position of the African countries toward these issues and the efforts of African leaders to bring about the appropriate solutions to these issues.

He said that the two sides also reviewed the situation in the Middle East, especially the war between Iraq and Iran. He added that the views of the Sultanate and Tanzania are identical with regard to the importance of ending the war between the two neighboring countries. Concluding his statement he said that the Sultanate and Tanzania support the convening of an international conference to settle the Middle East issue comprehensively.

Nyerere Departs 27 Jan

GF271143 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Muscat, 27 Jan (WAKH) — Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere left Muscat today following a 2-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, the Tanzanian president held talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on bilateral relations and Arab-African relations, in addition to issues of mutual concern.

SAUDI ARABIA

Thai Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD272143 Riyadh SPA in English 1913 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 27, SPA — Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila arrived here today from Bangkok on a visit to Saudi Arabia, as part of a Gulf tour which will also take him to Kuwait

and Oman. He was greeted by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and high-ranking officials.

Riyadh Radio on Mideast Conference, Superpowers
LD261425 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 26 Jan 85

[“Analysis” by Jasir ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Jasir]

[Text] Calmly and away from the spotlight, members of the United Nations Security Council are holding consultations behind closed doors about the possibility of holding an international conference on the Middle East crisis. These consultations are in response to one of the resolutions of the General Assembly, which delegated the secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, to follow up the holding of such a conference. De Cuellar, a long time ago, held a number of consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council where the majority of the members supported convening such a conference, with the exception of the United States. The U.S. opposition has dampened the enthusiasm of the UN secretary general. However, following the meeting in Geneva between the foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union, the United Nations has received information about an American-Soviet agreement to begin discussions on the Middle East through bilateral talks between Moscow and Washington.

This information, confirmed by American officials, prompted the UN secretary general to continue his contacts once more with the members of the Security Council. This time the consultations have not been limited to the 5 permanent members but have been extended to all 15 members. It appears that the consultations have found a more positive atmosphere than before, and have actually begun. This means that the consultations have made some progress and are gaining new momentum. Observers see an extension of the state of accord which has begun to crystalize between the two major powers, so that many international crises may find solutions as a result of the current American-Soviet understanding.

Without a doubt, the Middle East crisis is one of the most influential and threatening international crises to world security and peace. Without a doubt, at this point the Middle East crisis is bound to be the primary concern of the UN Security Council and of the major powers. If the Palestinian people's recommendations are followed, especially the proposal to include the PLO in any conference with the United States and the Soviet Union and other parties directly involved in the crisis, an acceptable and just solution would end the tragedy of the Palestinian people.

Hence, the present accord between the two major powers and the threat posed by the Middle East crisis to international peace and security indicate the inevitability and necessity of continuing the UN Security Council consultations. Members of the Security Council must realize that a just solution must take into account the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

UAE

Iraqi Finance Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF270635 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jan (WAKH) — Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a 3-day visit to the UAE. During his visit the minister will lead the Iraqi side in the third meeting of the joint UAE-Iraqi committee. During his visit, the Iraqi minister will also meet with a number of UAE officials.

Received by Deputy Prime Minister

GF271424 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT
 27 Jan 85

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan bin Muhammad received in his office today Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of economy and trade, and Taha Rajab ‘Arim, Iraqi ambassador to the UAE.

Following the meeting, the Iraqi minister said that he discussed with the deputy prime minister the means to develop economic relations between the two countries in order to serve the joint interests of the two fraternal peoples for the good of the Arab nation. He expressed his satisfaction over the good fraternal relations between the two countries and the joint cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

The third meeting of the joint UAE-Iraqi economic and trade committee began at the Ministry of Economy and Trade today. The UAE side was led by Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of economy and trade, while the Iraqi side was led by Iraqi Minister of Finance Hisham Hasan Tawfiq.

Foreign Minister Meets With U.S., PRC Envoys

GF271826 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1712 GMT
 27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jan (WAM) — Rashid ‘Abdallah, minister of foreign affairs, today met with George Lumsden, U.S. ambassador to the UAE. They reviewed bilateral relations, current developments in the Middle East and the region, and issues of common interest.

Rashid ‘Abdallah also met with Chao Meng, charge d'affaires at the PRC Embassy in the UAE, who brought a message from the PRC minister of foreign affairs, inviting him to visit the PRC. Rashid ‘Abdallah accepted the invitation. A date will be fixed sometime this year. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East. The PRC charge d'affaires expressed the hope that bilateral relations will expand in all fields.

President Receives Message From Pope

GF271602 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jan (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahayyan received a message today from Pope John Paul II dealing with world peace, Islamic-Christian rapprochement, and bilateral relations between the UAE and the Vatican.

The message was delivered by Archbishop Bernard Grimolay, head of the Catholic Church here during his meeting with Rashid 'Abdillah, minister of state for foreign affairs, who also received a similar message from the pontiff.

Papers Comment on Current OPEC Meeting

GF280934 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Jan (WAM) — Two UAE papers in editorials today called on OPEC ministers — who are holding an extraordinary meeting in Geneva — to work out a new strategy to tackle the chaos in the petroleum market and the challenges and maneuvers of industrial countries and multinational companies who are trying to monopolize the oil trade.

The Dubai newspaper *AL-BAYAN* said: "As the international monopoly is currently inundating the market with huge quantities of oil from its reserves like a sword aimed at the necks of the producers — a quantity estimated at 4 million barrels — then any resolution adopted by OPEC must start from this very point, that is, knocking away this sword." The paper pointed out that executing this matter "entails a strong will to make further concessions to reduce average production to a level that suits the actual requirements of OPEC countries and oil-consuming countries."

The paper believed the call made from within OPEC to reduce production to 13 million barrels a day affirms "the worry that emanates from the huge glut on the market which cannot be overcome by merely reducing prices." The paper warned that such a price reduction will lead to a series of reductions "which cannot be brought under control. This would severely harm the producing countries."

In conclusion, the paper called on OPEC countries to shoulder their responsibilities in this critical state. The paper called on OPEC countries to honor their commitments, respect agreements, refrain from violating the ratios assigned to every country, abstain from giving discounts, and adhere to the official price. The paper asserted that this is "the only method designed to confront the onslaught of the international monopoly which has massed its ranks to deal blows to OPEC."

The *AL-WAHDAH* newspaper expressed doubt on the possible success of the oil ministers, who are now convening for the third time within 35 days, to preserve the price structure of OPEC oil. The paper said: "Many oil experts and analysts believe that the issue of narrowing the gap between light and heavy oil dominates the intense deliberations of the ministers, whereas bridging this gap without raising the price of heavy oil will

preserve the benchmark price at its average rate, \$29 a barrel." *AL-WAHDAH* added that "though reports from Geneva indicate that the OPEC ministers made some progress with regard to narrowing the gap between the quality of heavy and light raw materials, the situation is still unclear on the price of oil and whether the price will be subject to new reductions in an attempt to resolve the current differences. Some oil ministers regard a change in the benchmark price as a means to solve the issue of differentials."

The paper said that the ministers have to renew their efforts to preserve the average price "because any new reduction means a new tremor in the international oil market and in the economies of the OPEC countries in particular and the developing countries in general." The paper said: "Moreover, a further price reduction by OPEC with the aim of solving the current problem implies that OPEC will not be able to control prices in the future."

In conclusion *AL-WAHDAH* stressed that the OPEC countries are requested to form a new strategy "to preserve the oil resources in the first place and to preserve the basic interests of the developing peoples in the second place."

PDRY

Kuwait Official, Police Delegation Arrive in Aden

LD261856 Kuwait KUNA in English 1655 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Aden, Jan 26 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Interior Ministry Under Secretary Major General Yusuf Badr al-Khuraifi arrived here Saturday, heading a ranking delegation of police officers on a visit to the PDRY.

The delegation comprises Col Yusuf al-Mashari, the director of special installations security department; Col Fahd al-Fahd, director of state security department; 'Abdallah al-Faris, director of criminal investigation department; Col Ahmad al-Rujayb, director of public relations, and Captain Ahmad Ibrahim from the public relations department.

The delegation, which was received at the Yemeni Interior Ministry by Interior Minister Col Mohammed 'Abdallah al-Battani, started talks with the Yemeni side on cooperation in the security and police fields.

The Yemeni minister gave a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Al-Khuraifi and the delegation accompanying him.

Joint Talks Held

GF261826 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The first session of the official talks between the delegations of the PDRY and Kuwaiti Interior Ministries was held at the Interior Ministry today.

During the talks, the Yemeni side was chaired by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Battani, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and interior minister, while the Kuwaiti side was

chaired by Major General Yusuf al-Khuraiji, Kuwait Interior Ministry under secretary.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and the means to bolster and develop them in security field. Also, views and ideas were exchanged in various security and police fields.

Hungarian Agriculture Minister Arrives 27 Jan

GF271930 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Jeno Vancsa, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee and minister of agriculture and food, arrived in Aden this evening. He is leading a delegation on an official visit to our country that will last for several days.

During the visit the delegation will hold meetings and talks with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform on means of developing economic relations between the two friendly countries in the agricultural field. It will also acquaint itself with our country's agriculture experience.

Foreign Minister Returns From Libyan Visit

GF251606 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, YSP Political Bureau member and foreign minister, returned to Aden this afternoon following a visit to Libya in response to an invitation he received from his brother Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the Popular Committee for Foreign Relations.

Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

GF261522 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, received in his office today the charge d'affaires of the Libyan People's Bureau in Aden, and received from him a written message addressed to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya.

Cabinet Concludes Meetings, Issues Resolutions

GF271346 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Cabinet concluded its meetings today under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The meetings dealt with a number of economic, developmental, and financial bills for 1985. The Cabinet approved the bill on the state's general budget as submitted by the Finance Ministry, and adopted a resolution on central and local revenues and its expenditures for the present year. The Cabinet also approved the estimated budgets of state departments and the draft law on them.

During its discussions the Cabinet stressed the importance of taking into consideration the current economic situation, the ability to finance and implement projects and the need for avoiding all unnecessary expenditures, increasing revenues, and utilizing all material and human resources particularly since this year is the last year in the second 5-year plan, and the year in which the YSP General Congress will be held to formulate and endorse the third 5-year plan.

YAR

Reportage on Visit of GDR Foreign Minister

Arrives in Sanaa 26 Jan

GF261324 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer arrived in Sanaa today on an official 3-day visit to our country. During the visit he will hold talks with Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee.

Joint Talks Begin

GF261802 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] The first session of official talks was held at the council of ministers this evening between our country and the GDR under the chairmanship of Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Standing Committee, and GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer.

At the beginning of the session Dr al-'Iryani welcomed the GDR minister and delegation and expressed confidence that the talks will succeed. He said that the relations of our country with the GDR date back to the first months of the Yemeni revolution which indicates their depth. He said that this will be a material incentive for developing the relations between the two friendly countries.

For his part the GDR minister expressed his happiness at visiting the YAR to familiarize himself with the features of civilization in this historical country. He affirmed the readiness of the GDR side to work to develop the bonds between the two countries in their joint interests.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and expansion of cooperation in various fields, in addition to a number of issues of mutual concern.

President Receives Fischer

GF271842 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer who conveyed to the brother leader president the greetings of the GDR leadership, especially Erich Honecker, SED secretary general and GDR State Council chairman.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of promoting them, in addition to the Arab and international situation and matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the brother leader president and secretary general of the General People's Congress pointed out the importance of the stability of international peace and security, particularly in the Middle East. He stressed that security and peace will not be achieved unless the Palestinian people achieve their just and legitimate national rights and the Gulf war is ended by peaceful means.

'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and Lothar Eichelkraut, the GDR ambassador in Sanaa, attended the meeting.

Official Talks Concluded

GF271858 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] Official talks between the YAR, represented by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Standing Committee, and a GDR delegation headed by Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, were concluded in Sanaa yesterday.

During their meetings they discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them, and the role of the joint committee for submitting proposals on enhancing and widening cooperation between the two friendly countries in all economic, technical, and cultural fields.

The brother deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs referred to the YAR's political and economic achievements

during the last 6 years under the leadership of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, foremost of which is the verification of the national charter and the establishment of the General People's Congress, along with the important steps taken for achieving unity between our two parts of the homeland on the basis of dialogue and understanding under the auspices of the political leaderships in the two parts. Dr al-Iryani explained the YAR's stand on various regional and international issues, especially on the continuing war between Iraq and Iran. He called anew on the government of Iran to follow Iraq's example and respond to the mediation efforts exerted for ending this war which has wasted manpower and economic resources.

Reviewing the current situation in the Middle East, the brother deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs said that the situation in the region is deteriorating, and that the Palestinian issue is subjected to various foreign plots aimed at undermining and destroying the unity of the Palestinian ranks. Israeli aggressive practices in occupied southern Lebanon are undermining its independence, stability, and its national unity. Israel is conducting its actions due to total U.S. aid.

Exchanging views on the international situation in general, the brother deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs expressed our country's hope that the current negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the arms race — the first round of which began in Geneva in the first half of this month — will succeed. This step would ease tension in relations between East and West in particular, and in international relations in general.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Libyan Message

GF261231 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, today received Brother Hasan Bashir (Abdallah), director of the Libyan People's Bureau in Sanaa, who delivered a written message addressed to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress from Brother Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution.

Mubarak Interviewed on Regional Issues

NC251643 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Washington, 25 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has called on the Arabs to unify their position in order to solve the Palestinian problem. He also asked for cooperation in motivating President Reagan to contribute toward achieving an overall solution in the Middle East. President Mubarak appealed for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and the shedding of both peoples' blood.

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt is proceeding on the democratic road.

These remarks came in a program presented by U.S. television's Channel 32 [not further specified] on President Mubarak's personality and on Egypt, old and new.

In the course of the program, President Mubarak said: We hope that the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat, who represents the most moderate groups, will determine the nature of relations between the PLO and Jordan. If this is so, President Mubarak added, these relations will help pave the way for negotiations and an all-embracing solution to the Middle East problem.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: We ask, or even urge, Yasser Arafat to determine the form of these relations so that the Americans and the U.S. Administration will be able to pressure Israel and force it to sit at the negotiating table. This, President Mubarak said, would promote the ideas contained in President Reagan's peace initiative in favor of the PLO. He said that President Reagan is making painstaking efforts, and that it is in our interest to help him. President Mubarak said that, if the nature of relations between the PLO and Jordan is determined, President Reagan, who has declared his commitment to his peace initiative on several occasions, would go ahead with it. The president added: The ball is now in our court, and we must pass it to the other side.

Asked what Egypt could do to stop the Iraq-Iran war, President Mubarak said: Egypt is making the greatest efforts in this area, and has called on the Iranians to stop the bloodshed. President Mubarak expressed his regret that efforts to end the war have failed. He pointed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's frequent declarations that the Iraqis have withdrawn to their international borders to prevent further bloodshed and to allow the two countries' resources to be used for development rather than for purchasing arms and destructive hardware.

Asked his opinion of Iranian leader Khomeini, his excellency said: Frankly, I neither understand the man nor his ideas, as Islam has never advocated destructive notions. Rather, Islam urges everyone to favor peace and peaceful solutions. We hope that the Iranians will realize the dangers inherent in this war and put an end to it.

President Mubarak spoke about democracy in Egypt, saying: We are now marching along the road to democracy. However, we must walk step by step, without taking broad leaps, so that we can absorb democratic thought and not expose ourselves to shocks or setbacks.

Asked his views of what the world will be like in the 21st century, the president said that he hopes that lasting peace will prevail, that efforts will be focused on mankind's welfare, and that humankind will avoid conflicts, bloodshed, causes of tension, and all of the terrorist actions that are now being witnessed and are draining humanity's resources.

The 30-minute U.S. television program presented President Mubarak as a man in the prime of life, dealing with the most critical moment of his life, and solicited his views of contemporary man.

President Mubarak described himself in the first years of his life as quiet, detesting lies, direct in his relations, faithful, and committed to the teachings of his faith. He spends a great deal of time reading the holy Koran.

The president said that he has had several critical moments in his life, the most important of which was the glorious war in 1973, when he was commander of the Air Force and offered his life for the homeland. He said that his sacrifice was compensated for by the outcome of the war, which was splendid.

President Mubarak concluded his interview by saying that a true man is one who is honest in his life and who works for the interests of his nation rather than for his own. A true man is sincere, courageous, and bold, he concluded.

Mubarak Congratulates Romania's Ceausescu

NC251124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following cable to his excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on the occasion of his birthday:

It gives me great pleasure to send to Your Excellency, on the occasion of the celebration of your happy birthday, my sincerest heartfelt congratulations together with my wishes for health and happiness to you. On this happy occasion, I would like to express to Your Excellency our full appreciation for your sincere efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

We are proud of the close relations of friendship and cooperation between our two friendly people. These relations are developing daily and increasing in strength to the benefit of our two people's common interests and in their support for international security and peace. With my sincerest greetings to you, I wish the friendly Romanian people more progress and prosperity. With my deepest respects and appreciation.

Demonstrators Burn Israeli Flag at Book Fair

NC251421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Two hundred people staged a demonstration at Cairo's international book exhibition to protest Israel's participation in the exhibition which was opened by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan Ali in Cairo 2 days ago. The demonstrators set fire to the

Israeli flag inside the exhibition and raised banners saying: Our struggle against the Zionist enemy is a struggle for survival, not for borders.

Delegation Prepares for Talks on Tabah

Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC261533 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met today with the Egyptian delegation to the Beersheba talks, scheduled to begin tomorrow. The foreign minister said that the position toward the Beersheba talks was reviewed during the meeting. He expressed his hope that the talks will produce positive results. He added that the talks will deal with the Tabah issue and the 25 April 1982 agreement.

The Egyptian delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Halim Badawi will leave for Beersheba tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the NDP secretary general has stated that as far as Egypt is concerned, the Beersheba talks on the Tabah issue will represent the last round of negotiations for resolving the Tabah issue. Egypt will then seek arbitration if the negotiations fail to achieve their objective. Tabah is 100 percent Egyptian and Egypt is eager to preserve every inch of its land, Dr 'Abd al-Halim added.

Departs for Beersheba

NC270746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)— Egypt's delegation to the Tabah negotiations left Cairo this morning for Beersheba. The talks are due to start there later today and they will deal with trying to solve the Tabah problem on the basis of the 25 April 1982 agreement. Delegations at the level of experts from Egypt, Israel, and the United States will take part in these talks.

Egypt's delegation to the talks is being led by Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, assistant foreign minister. It includes Ambassador Nabil al-Arabi, head of the Legal Department; minister plenipotentiary Badr Hammam, deputy head of the Israeli Department; Brigadier General Faruq Labib, head of the Liaison Department; Mahmud Uthman, counsellor at the Foreign Ministry; and Muhammad Ibrahim, the Foreign Ministry second secretary. They will be joined by Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad Basyuni, in charge of the Egyptian embassy in Israel; and minister plenipotentiary Hasan 'Isa, Egypt's consul in Eilat.

'Abd al-Majid Views Tabah, Arab Relations

NC252119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)— Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stressed that Egypt insists on the return of Tabah, saying: We must insist on its return. There will be no compromises or concessions. Tabah is Egyptian. The foreign

minister said that the Tabah issue involves Egypt's national conscience, stressing that Egypt will never forsake Tabah.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's edition of the newspaper *AL-AHRAM*, the foreign minister said that talks between Egypt and Israel have failed to produce a settlement on the disputed area. Egypt, he added, maintains that the 25 April 1982 agreement must be implemented. This agreement provides for (the dispatch of) multinational forces to Tabah, to maintain peace. Egypt also holds that the situation prevailing at the time that the agreement was signed should remain intact, and that the Tabah issue should be referred to arbitration if the talks fail.

The foreign minister continued: We do not want to predict events. We must wait and see what the outcome of the Beersheba talks will be. He added that Egypt's position will be determined after those talks.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid went on: Our differences with Israel remain, but we hope that they will be resolved.

On Arab-Egyptian relations, the foreign minister said: Egypt is an inalienable part of the Arab world, and no power or individual can separate it. He stressed that Egypt's affiliation with the Arab world is fundamental and involves the nation's destiny.

He continued: Egypt is bound by international agreements, by which it regained its territory. While it is fundamentally affiliated to the Arab world, Egypt also respects its commitments to Israel, as long as Israel respects its own commitments.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed there is no question of choosing between relations with the Arab countries and those with Israel, and said that any attempt to paint the area's picture in that way is a great mistake. He stressed that Egypt will never allow any party to dictate conditions to it, no matter what or from what source, adding: I hope it is clear to our Arab brothers that Egypt has not and will not run after anyone, and that they must be fully aware of its role and position.

Discussing the Arab situation, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the postponement of the Arab summit was futile. He emphasized that Arab unity is necessary. He wondered who is served by the continuing division in the Arab arena. He said that there is still hope that the Arabs will be reunited and will close their ranks in 1985, despite those Arab parties that have no interest in Arab reunion or in providing impetus to attempts to resolve the Palestinian problem.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding as an encouraging factor in the Arab arena.

He said that the rapprochement between Egypt and several Arab states, although not at the level of diplomatic representation, provides President Husni Mubarak with material to discuss with the United States.

On the Palestinian question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the Palestine issue is Egypt's issue. He said that President Mubarak was the first to call for a dialogue between Washington and the PLO. He affirmed that Egypt adheres to this position, believing

it to be an appropriate basis to create room for understanding between the United States and the Palestinians.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also anticipated further summits between Egypt and Jordan before President Mubarak leaves for Washington.

U.S. Urged To Take 'Decisive' Stand on Tabah

NC 262238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) — Cairo's Sunday papers explain Egypt's stand on the Egyptian-Israeli talks concerning the Tabah issue that will begin tomorrow in Beersheba. The papers affirm that Egypt will not relinquish an inch of its soil and that Egypt's right is not negotiable.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Tabah is Egyptian and will not be a subject for bargaining regardless of Israel's maneuvers. The paper says that Israel's continued maneuvers refute all its claims about its desire for peace. The paper demands that the United States take a more decisive stand on Tabah and not a mediatory or neutral position between the disputing parties, because this would cast doubt on the U.S. stand on the peace process. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* notes that the United States knows well that Tabah is 100 percent Egyptian and, therefore, the United States must make Israel realize this fact and behave accordingly so that it can be trusted as a basic partner in the process to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region.

GDR's Fischer Concludes Visit to Cairo 26 Jan

NC 260825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0817 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) — GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer left Cairo this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The German guest also held talks with Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid on bolstering bilateral relations.

Austrian Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit

NC 262013 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) — Austrian Minister for National Defense Friedhelm Frischenschlager arrived in Cairo this evening leading a military delegation on a 3-day official visit to Egypt. He will convey a verbal message from Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz to President Mubarak.

MAYU Views U.S.-Egyptian Relations

PM 251526 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 21 Jan 85 p 9

[Muhammad Rashwan article: "A Calm Discussion: What Do We Want From the United States?"]

[Excerpts] This article may coincide with President Mubarak's long-awaited visit to Washington. Arab circles attach great importance to the visit and European political circles are inter-

ested in its results. If the president's previous visits succeeded in paving the way and were a fruitful test of intentions for both sides, the talks this time call for a review of the pluses and minuses of the U.S. Middle East policy, a definition of attitudes and the settlement of some outstanding issues.

We are not against U.S. interests in the Middle East. They are controlled by international conflicts and balances and also by the people of the region, who have lost their patience and almost lost faith in U.S. ability and its intentions. We call for a fair equilibrium between the U.S. interests and the rights of the states in this region, which is entitled to peace and security. We want the United States to help build bridges of confidence through serious work instead of promises and the policy of playing for time. That policy has been a proven failure and has produced many dangers. The Middle East can no longer tolerate new wars and a continuation of Israeli practices and endless ambitions.

We understand that as an advanced military base, Israel could serve U.S. interests, but it would not hesitate to trample them if they conflicted with its own ambitions. To find evidence of that, the U.S. Administration should reopen the *SS Liberty* file and remember the trick Sharon played on Haig to invade Lebanon, what the U.S. Marines have been through, the Sabra and Shatila events, and the considerable loss of U.S. prestige in the region. The Jews once abandoned our Lord Moses when he was in a most difficult position and they will abandon Mr Reagan at the appropriate time.

If the people of the region lost faith in the U.S. abilities and intentions despite the tours of U.S. envoy Murphy, nobody would be able to stop the deluge. The United States should learn a lesson from some of the things happening in Latin America. The United States has given Israel everything but Israel has made no concessions so far.

The question here is: What does the United States intend to do for us or even for itself to safeguard its own interests? The United States agreed to sit down with the representatives of the Vietnamese people at the negotiating table but it still refuses to sit with the representatives of the Palestinian people, although the Palestinian people have not destroyed U.S. interests as the Vietnamese did. It is blind submission to Israel's will. We hope that, instead of asking about the normalization of relations with Israel and the return of the Egyptian ambassador, the U.S. Administration will explain why Israel is procrastinating over the return of Tabah and withdrawal from Lebanon, why Israel is not implementing the Camp David agreement on Palestinian autonomy, why it is threatening the West Bank and building settlements even though it cannot find enough people to live on these settlements, so much so that it airlifted Ethiopian Jews, who are actually rejected by the Israelis, to live in these ill-omened settlements. On the U.S.-Egyptian exchange of interests and bilateral relations, we have the following questions:

1. Has the United States honored the principle of equal treatment in its economic aid to us and to Israel, which is getting unlimited aid?
2. Has the United States kept its promise to study and solve the outstanding economic problems between the two countries?

3. Has the United States kept its promise to give part of its aid in dollars to give Egypt flexibility in dealing with certain economic problems?

It is foolish of us to talk in the Arab press about Israel's inflation and economic problems as if we have scored a victory, because all that becomes a heap of documents and bills which Israel takes to the U.S. Congress, demanding payment. Our economic problems are worse than Israel's. The difference is that we keep our dignity and do not turn our complaints into blackmail as Israel does. We want to ask about many things such as armaments and the contracts we have concluded, joint cooperation in military industries, and the U.S. promises to finance nuclear power stations.

After that long introduction we proceed to say that when the meeting takes place, President Reagan will have been sworn in for his second term, which ends in 1988.

Some European circles believe that President Mubarak's U.S. mission will be difficult but positive for the following reasons:

1. He has become an expert on the U.S. way of doing things and knows how to deal with the U.S. Administration.
2. He is difficult to provoke and the Zionist media will fail to provoke him.
3. Egypt's international relations, whether with the Arabs or with East and West Europe, are now stronger than before.
4. The president has a clear and frank approach.
5. President Mubarak says the same things publicly and behind closed doors and he has reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to its international obligations.

I may have been unduly pessimistic. I hope that I will not be disappointed and I hope that the U.S. Administration in 1985 will be better than it was in the previous years. A thousand congratulations to President Reagan on his second term, which he has embarked upon with more vitality and youthfulness, in spite of the U.S. Democratic Party.

AL-AHALLI Hits Request for Increased U.S. Aid
PM272036 Cairo AL-AHALLI in Arabic 23 Jan 85 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad "Our Foreign Policy" column: "Request for an Increase in U.S. Aid Contrary to Independence of Egyptian Decisionmaking"]

[Text] The U.S. *NEW YORK TIMES* revealed that the Egyptian Government has submitted a memo to the U.S. Administration prior to President Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington in which Cairo is asking for a \$1-billion annual increase in aid received from the United States. This brings the total of U.S. military and economic aid to Egypt to \$3 billion [figure as published] next year.

The Egyptian memorandum, according to the U.S. paper, justifies this request by pointing to the distinguished role Egypt is

playing in the area and, consequently, the importance of joint cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

If it is true that the memorandum gives such justification then we have more than one criticism to make:

If Egypt truly has a "distinguished" role in the area it is a matter that concerns Egypt alone and only Egypt should benefit from this position. Egypt's position in the area cannot be the basis for a deal to be proposed to a foreign country in order to obtain aid or anything else.

The demand for more aid from Washington cannot go hand in hand with Cairo's preserving a "distinguished" role because a precondition to being "distinguished" is to be independent in decisionmaking. There is no escape from becoming a lackey to a superpower from which Egypt would ask for more aid.

The claim that Egypt's request for more aid is not contrary to its adherence to the policy of nonalignment, its support for the Palestinian problem, or its emphasis on the firm desire to maintain control over its bases and installations is untenable.

Egypt's adherence to the policy of nonalignment is not credible when its "distinguished" role in the Middle East becomes a basis for receiving U.S. aid.

It is known that Washington does not yet recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate party qualified to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. Egypt will have no role in convincing Washington to the contrary. Rather it will be Washington that will have the final say in deciding Egypt's policies toward the Palestinian problem and not vice versa.

As for maintaining control over its military bases and installations, in 1984 Egypt agreed to hold joint naval and air maneuvers with the United States after having cancelled the "Bright Star" maneuvers. Even though the Egyptian Government may have justified the resumption of joint military maneuvers with the United States as being only for economic purposes, the U.S. side certainly decided on the resumption for military purposes and as part of the joint strategic cooperation between the United States and Egypt. Under this cooperation, Egypt has become a launchpad for the U.S. RDTF whenever Washington sees a need for such an operation. It is difficult for Egypt to claim that such policy removes the suspicion that its bases are serving the plans of a foreign state regardless of the "special" relations with it, or that it ensures full control over these bases for Egypt.

The claim that Egypt has a right to ask Washington for more aid because Israel has obtained more aid and that this is a price Washington has to pay in appreciation for Egypt's adherence to the Camp David agreements despite all the pressures to which it is being subjected overlooks one important fact: Israel does not claim to be nonaligned. The United States may not have bases in Israel, but Israel, for all its potential, is a U.S. base and an extension of its entity and strategy in the Middle East. The organic cohesion between the two sides found its ultimate expression in the "strategic cooperation" agreement, an agreement that does not include Cairo, the third party to Camp David agreements.

Egypt might have overwhelming economic needs but U.S. aid is not the means to ensure that they are dealt with. It is inconceivable that Washington will respond to Egypt's demand in this respect without political strings attached.

The recent improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations without a clear response by Israel to Cairo's conditions for such an improvement is one of the many signs that the U.S. aid is bound to have political strings attached. These strings will be contrary to what Cairo has recently achieved in the Arab and international fields. Cairo has resumed normal relations with Jordan, the PLO, and other Arab parties opposed to the Camp David agreements. Also Egypt once again has diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with the Soviet Union.

While Washington itself has decided to resume a dialogue with Moscow on the Middle East, it is unbecoming of Egypt's status and its distinguished role in the area that the quest for more U.S. aid should be the cause for the abolition of this role.

Briefs

New French Ambassador — Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) — MENA has learned that France has nominated Pierre Hunt as its ambassador to Egypt to succeed Ambassador Philippe Andre Cuvillier, whose tour of duty has expired. Ambassador Cuvillier is due to leave Cairo next month. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 26 Jan 85 NC*]

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques**No 1,722**

*JN251715 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Communique No 1,722 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great steadfastness and capability, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their splendid combat activities in all operational sectors against the remnants of the grudging and aggressive clique ruling in Iran. The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In order to inflict the heaviest losses on the enemy, units of our valiant artillery pounded the enemy positions and some other targets in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring accurate and effective hits and destroying three infantry positions, one anti-aircraft machine gun emplacement, and one communications post.
2. Our units in the central sector of the operational theater managed to kill two enemy troops and to destroy two infantry positions, killing their occupants.
3. Our brave artillery units directed their fire against the enemy positions, artillery posts, and troop concentrations in the Maysan sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting large losses in men and equipment. Elsewhere in the same sector, one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed.
4. The impotent regime in Iran continues to assert its grudge against Iraq and its people. Last night and today, the enemy shelled two civilian areas in the northern and east of Basra sectors, demolishing one house in the northern sector and damaging one civilian car in the east of Basra sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 January 1985

No 1,723

*JN261756 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT
26 Jan 85*

[Communique No 1,723 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue to splendidly fight the remnants of the Khomeyniite regime — which has failed in all parts of the battlefield — with high capability and unique courage. In the meantime, the clique of killers that is ruling in Tehran finds no other way to cover its impotence and the racist hatred it harbors against our people and their triumphant march than to shell civilian targets in violation of the principles of international dealings and of the special agreement not to shell civilian targets.

While they will continue to fight the enemy in the battlefield, our Armed Forces would like to remind the criminal Khomeyniite

gang that Iraq possesses the capability and the means for a destructive and harsh reply if the Iranian rulers mistakenly believe that Iraq's patience will last forever, and that it will continue to abide by principles and respect the word it has given to international organizations as a country that is aware of its status and respects its prestige. The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Continuing to shun all virtues, the rancorous regime in Tehran shelled civilian targets in the Al-Thaghir district in Basra Governorate with heavy artillery from 0830 until 1000 today. As a result of the shelling, eight students from Al-Nahrawan elementary school, one school worker, and a 12-year old female were wounded. The Iranian rulers will pay dearly for this crime at the appropriate time.
2. With effective actions and high morale, our forward units dealt intensive blows to enemy positions, vehicles, weapons emplacements, and engineering activities in the operational sector east of Basra with all types of weapons, scoring very effective hits, killing 10, wounding others, destroying 6 infantry positions and one tubular launcher, setting fire to 3 vehicles, and causing fires and explosions in other positions which could be seen with the naked eye.
3. Bent on dealing painful blows to enemy forces, one of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield opened fire from all types of weapons on enemy positions and troop concentrations, hampering the enemy's movements, inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy, and destroying five infantry positions whose occupants were killed. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.
4. One observation post was destroyed in the Maysan sector and one infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 January 1985

No 1,724

*JN271716 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT
27 Jan 85*

[Communique No 1,724 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our people's Armed Forces are proudly standing along the frontline to defend the land of great Iraq and to continue the bright history of the Arab nation and the great achievements of Arab heroes. They renew their pledge that they will not allow any sinful aggressor to desecrate Iraqi soil and will always be ready to defeat the plans of those charlatans who lurk in the dens of humiliation and cowardice. The following is a summary of our force's triumphant operations of last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships today meted out just punishment to the remnants of the Khomeyniite forces, destroying their equipment and putting their engineering units east of Basra out of action. The enemy's immense losses included the destruction

of two large vehicles and one excavator. Dense columns of smoke were seen rising from enemy positions. Our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In order to inflict further losses in men and equipment on the enemy, our forward units continued to pound enemy positions and to pursue the movement of its vehicles and troops east of Basra, using heavy artillery and mortars. They scored direct hits, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops. The enemy's engineering units were put out of action and one of its observation posts, four vehicles, and one infantry position were destroyed. Flames were seen engulfing the infantry position. One machine gun emplacement was destroyed and those manning it were killed. Our forces blew up one hardware stockpile. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties.

3. A number of our forward formations engaged enemy positions and weapon emplacements in the Maysan sector. As a result of our heavy firepower, eight enemy men were killed, others wounded, and one infantry position and one excavator destroyed.

4. Two people were killed and one infantry position and one excavator were destroyed in the central sector of the front.

5. Our forward units in the northern sector directed their fire at enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles. They checked enemy movement and scored effective, direct hits on its positions. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 January 1985

Spokesman Condemns Shelling of Civilians

JN261656 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1628 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The ignorant Iranian rulers whose impotence in confronting our valiant Armed Forces has been proved, and against whom our forces are dealing painful blows in the battlefield on land, in the air, and at sea cannot but perform cowardly acts that show their impotence and their hatred of our people.

The Khomeyniite clique shelled civilian targets and residential areas in the Al-Taghir district in the Basra Governorate from 0830 until 1000 today. As a result of the shelling, eight students from Al-Nahrwan elementary school, a school worker, and a 12-year old female were wounded. The shelling also damaged the school building.

By this treacherous act, the Iranian rulers have bypassed international norms, particularly the agreement on refraining from shelling civilian targets concluded under UN auspices.

While we wish our sons speedy recovery, we tell the Iranian rulers that this crime will not pass unpunished, and that we possess means of destruction that the Iranian rulers cannot confront,

What has prevented us from replying to their daily crimes of shelling civilian targets is our abidance by principles and our commitment to our word to the international organizations. Otherwise, we would turn civilian targets in Iran upside down. Cries and lamentations will then not benefit the criminals. He who warns is excused.

Foreign Ministry Asks for UN Investigation

JN261943 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) — Iraq has asked the United Nations to investigate the artillery shelling this morning of civilian targets and residential areas in Basra Governorate, southern Iraq.

This evening, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry sent a memorandum to the UN special mission in Baghdad investigating the shelling of civilian targets asking it to investigate the shelling of Al-Jawa'ir and Sakhrijah villages in the Al-Taghir subdistrict, in the Al-Qurnah district in Basra Governorate this morning.

Iraq has violated more than once the agreement concluded with the UN secretary general on not shelling civilian targets.

Statement on Attack Against 'Maritime Targets'

JN271930 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Our giant Air Force's sky hawks at 1800 today hunted two maritime targets south of Khark Island. One of them was very big and the other was big. They scored accurate and effective hits and returned safely with their planes. This was stated by a military spokesman this evening. The following is the text of the statement:

Our Air Force's giant planes continued their search for targets that sneak into the prohibited zones in the Arab Gulf waters. They spotted two maritime targets — the first was very big, and the second was big — south of Khark Island. They dealt them concentrated blow at 1800 today. They scored direct and effective hits and returned safely to their bases with God's care.

By this, our Air Force embodies Iraq's right and ability to cut off the oil supplies of the aggressor Iranian regime, which attempts to exploit its resources to carry out aggression against our people. Let the ignorant Iranian rulers know that their only choice to overcome their impasse is to stop the policy of aggression, cease the war, and recognize Iraq's legitimate rights. Otherwise, we have further blows that will force them to admit their impotence to continue aggression. It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 27 January 1985

Spokesman Gives Statement on New Offensive

JN281247 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA) — The following is the text of the military spokesman's statement: In the name of God, the

merciful, the compassionate. So leave them alone until they encounter that day of theirs, wherein they shall perforce swoon with terror, the day when their plotting will avail them nothing and no help shall be given them. [Koranic verse]

The Iranian rulers who have been blinded by their ambition, whose black hatred against our people and their mighty resurgence has made them go astray, and who have been incited by Zionism and those who claim to be Arabs, are now sustaining bitter defeat and humiliation at the hands of our valiant Armed Forces.

Through good planning and rare courage which have become great examples, and through a splendid performance which has become a model to all people, our forces advance scoring victory after victory and crushing the barbaric remnants.

With determined assaults, the forces of the 3d Army Corps and the forces supporting them advanced on three fronts in the southern sector last night and at dawn today toward targets which were defined and whose dimensions were set by our wise command. As a result of daring and surprise battles, the defined targets were occupied and our forces were stationed in their new positions. The Iranian forces which Khomeyni and his clique had hoped would stand fast in the face of the Iraqi's thrust and intensive fire, were transformed into bodies left out in the open, prisoners, or remnants pursued by God's curse and the Iraqi's fire.

The enemy sustained huge numbers of killed, very huge numbers of wounded, and many prisoners, including one officer. Large quantities of weapons left by the enemy on the battlefield were also captured.

Let this be a lesson to Iraq's enemies and blessed be the brave men. Let us proceed forward to achieve more victories and until the enemy submits to the call for right and peace, it is God who grants success. 28 January 1985

AL-WATAN Cited on U.S. Delivery of Planes

NC271203 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (AFP) — The United States has promised to deliver 45 combat aircraft to Iraq, including 30 F-15 and 15 F-16 fighter planes, the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* said today.

The paper said the transaction could signal a change in Baghdad's policies toward the Soviet Union, with which it signed a 15-year friendship treaty in 1972.

The report, which cited informed sources in the Gulf, said the promise was made during a visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington in November that included talks with President Ronald Reagan.

The two countries announced during the visit that they would re-establish diplomatic relations after a 17-year break.

Washington also promised to send Iraq a modern radar-system, mobile ground to air missile ramps to be deployed along the

warfront with its neighbor, Iran, and several thousand bullet-proof tents, the newspaper said.

The Iraqi-U.S. rapprochement followed a visit by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan to Moscow last year, reportedly to ask for Soviet intervention to press Syria to resume pumping Iraqi crude oil through the trans-Syrian pipeline, which was closed down in 1981.

The request reportedly has gone unanswered so far.

The paper said today that Baghdad sent a note recently to Moscow "reproaching" the Soviet leader for not making a "serious effort" in the affair and for continuing to deliver to Syria new arms, which the Iraqi Military Command has charged are often sent to Iran in exchange for Iranian oil.

The paper forecast a possible change in attitude toward Moscow, suggesting that "preliminary steps" might be taken toward the annulment of the Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, which was signed in 1972 and expires in 1987.

Syria Seen Supporting Iran Against Iraq

JN271005 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0628 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan 85 (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* says that the current Tehran meetings that are supported by Hafiz al-Asad's regime aim at isolating Iraq and guaranteeing an Arab cover for aggression against it.

In its editorial today, the newspaper adds: Khomeynism and Zionism are one political school and the Iranian rulers are following in the Zionists' steps and adopting the same methods and techniques to achieve their ambitions and expansionist schemes against the Arab territory.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the Iranian rulers imagine that once Iraq is isolated they can storm and occupy its territory and subjugate Iraq to their will. It adds that the war has revealed how similar the methods and techniques of the Iranian regime and those of the Zionist entity are in their aggression against the Arab nation. They are more than just allies and partners that exchange roles in singling out targeted Arab countries.

In this regard, the newspaper indicates how the Zionist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June 1981 coincided with Iraq's preoccupation with its confrontation of Iranian aggression and how the Zionist invasion of Beirut in 1982 coincided with Iranian aggression on east Basra.

The newspaper affirms that the operations are two parts of one scheme: namely, the Zionist-Persian scheme to fragment the Arab nation and its pan-Arab entity and to place it under joint Zionist-Persian hegemony. It says: Had it not been for the Iranian aggression against Iraq, the Zionists would not have been able to single out Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance or storm Beirut through an exposed collusion with the Damascus rulers.

The newspaper explains that the Iranian and Syrian rulers' call to neutralize the Gulf region and not to expand the area of war

is aimed against Iraq, which is an impregnable wall that prevents Iran from achieving its ambitions and the objectives of its expansionist strategy in the Arab Gulf region.

AL-THAWRAH confirms that the failure of the Iranian regime's efforts to isolate Iraq is not only due to Iraq's ability and its infliction of utter defeat on Iran, but also due to the fact that the world has begun to understand Iraq's peaceful stands and refrain from dealing with any Iranian diplomatic move since all Iranian political stands lack credibility, consistency, and clarity.

Concluding, *AL-THAWRAH* affirms that Iraq's victory over Iran is a comprehensive military, political, ideological, and economic one. It adds that henceforth no political move or maneuver will benefit the Iranian regime because the time for such things is over.

Oil Minister Makes Statement, Leaves for Geneva

JN260951 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left Baghdad for Geneva at dawn today leading a delegation to participate in the 73d OPEC extraordinary ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in Geneva the day after tomorrow.

The minister told INA that the meeting is aimed at evaluating the resolutions of the previous ministerial meeting of 27 December and their effect on the international oil market. It will discuss issues related to these resolutions.

The minister said that the meeting will be preceded by meetings of the experts' committees that are monitoring the oil market and differences in the prices of various grades of oil.

The ministerial monitoring committee, of which Iraq is a member, will meet today to evaluate the market situation and its short-term future developments, based on the various factors in

the oil market and various market indications, with the aim of defining reactions to the recent OPEC conference.

The minister pointed out that the ministerial committee in charge of monitoring differences in prices of oil grades will meet tomorrow, Sunday, for this purpose and will submit recommendations with the aim of restoring fair competition among oil grades and removing the economic incentives prompting some buyers to import only certain grades of oil.

This, he added, will relieve pressure on certain grades and distribute it evenly on all kinds of oil. He said that the last OPEC conference adopted a resolution on this issue as a short-term solution.

The minister expressed hope that the OPEC member-states act responsibly and cooperate earnestly to end the present OPEC crisis and confront pressures that the consuming states and their companies are placing on OPEC.

The organization will then be able to regain its leading position in the world oil market, restore stability to oil prices, and preserve its own interests.

Finance Minister Leaves for Visit to UAE

JN262044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) — Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq left for Abu Dhabi this evening at the head of a delegation to head the Iraqi side to the meetings of the third session of the Iraqi-UAE joint committee entrusted with promoting economic cooperation; the meeting is scheduled to begin there tomorrow. The Iraqi delegation is comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Industry and Minerals, and Trade, as well as representatives from the general tourism establishment.

King Criticizes Local Media, Writers

JN272057 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent the following letter to Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, Dear Prime Minister, may God grant you success. I send you greetings of trust, appreciation, and love. For a long time, we have been observing that some writers in our local papers are exceeding the limits of truth, knowledge, and responsibility by assailing a number of our institutions and criticizing our people's values and convictions in this ancient Arab land. We have been used to this activity for many years. We have not condoned it, but hoped that minds would develop, pens would rise to a higher level, and that writing on any subject would be based on facts, rational, and constructive. We hoped that the writers would not be shallow, would not be prompted by cheap sycophancy, and would not fear any blame in dealing with political problems.

The writer should be a weapon for truth and facts; he should lead others with beneficial opinions, and not be led by terror or anger. Life and death are in God's hand and the believers know that they will have to account for their deeds in the hereafter. The writer should exercise his responsibility through knowledge and research, without which the ignorant will entrench ignorance in society instead of guiding, constructing, and enriching society through reason and logic.

We have become fed up with the continuous process of creating frustration, whose titles and essence are apparent day and night in the written word and in the drawn cartoon — a process that pushes us toward desperation and loss by neglecting all the bright sides of life and the national and pan-Arab struggle, except in a very few cases. It seems as though most of our writers do not take from our ancient Arab heritage except what the ancient Arabian said about the men who stole his camels: "I cursed and insulted them, but they took the camels away."

Recently, we have noticed that certain writings were aimed against tribes, families, traditions, and norms, something which regrettably harms a dear part of our one society. I would like to repeat to you what I said during a meeting with some tribal chiefs and leaders in our country. I told them: "I, Husayn, from Hashim and Quraysh, the proudest Arab tribe, which God honored by sending one of its members, Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, as a mercy to mankind: 'What harms our tribes harms us. This has been our condition and so it will continue to be forever. We will not allow it to change and we will not condone any change. And made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other.' [Koranic verse]"

As for the laws, they have been laid down for all the people in order to serve them and preserve their lives, property, and rights, as well as to organize their relations. However, these laws will have to be closely connected with the people and with their norms, traditions, and habits. These laws did not emerge from a vacuum. As for these norms, traditions, and conventions, I define them as those that preserve the genuine Arab character and maintain all the good qualities of our people — qualities that we have derived

from our forefathers and which distinguish us from the rest of the peoples and societies in this world. We should study and reject everything that harms these traditions and open our door in order to supplement the traditions that we are adhering to with everything useful and beneficial.

Frankly speaking, the situation calls for rejecting everything that has been added to these traditions since the establishment of Jordan in terms of dealing with strange, unacceptable innovations. This does not mean rejecting all of them with their good aspects and abandoning the basis of our existence and the experience of our successive generations. To sum up, therefore, the laws are laid down, respected, applied, and developed according to the society's needs. Enacting laws does not mean denying all good traditions and habits that imply forgiveness and grace and strengthen the fabric and ties of society.

We have felt the need to define these traditions and conventions in accordance with a study to be conducted in a calm atmosphere and to be diligently discussed by a team to be composed of all those concerned so that they will affirm our character and preserve the best and the distinguished, which we have the right to be proud of and to preserve because it gives us good values, meaning, and morals, and enables us to preserve our society intact within the great family to which we belong.

I would like to point out that the phenomenon of the all-out fragmentation and dismemberment of the tribe — a phenomenon which we felt during a certain period of time — is a painful, negative, and destructive phenomenon. We have not and will not condone or accept it.

As for the media in our country, I would like you to remind them forthwith that freedom stops at the limit of encroaching on the honor and dignity of individuals and groups as a whole. We will not allow the freedom enjoyed by our people to be used as a way to cast doubt, destruction, and loss by those who benefit from it. May God lead us on the right path, and grant us success. Please accept my good wishes.

May God's blessings and peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

AL-DUSTUR: Fatah's al-Hasan Arrives in Amman 27 Jan
JN280753 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jan 85 pp 1, 20

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan that will last several days during which he will meet with ranking officials.

Palestinian sources have stated that Al-Hasan's visit is within the context of Palestinian-Jordanian talks in the sphere of the joint political coordination and moves and in completion of the intensive talks Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, had with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri early this month. The sources added that Al-Hasan will explain the

PLO's stands on international resolutions, political initiatives, and the Palestinian concept of joint action.

Future Jordanian-Palestinian moves will focus on how to speed up the convening of an Arab summit to obtain an Arab blessing for the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move.

PLO Executive Committee Members 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad and Muhammad Milhim have also returned to Amman. Faruq Qaddumi will also arrive in Amman soon to head the Palestinian delegation to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. This will be after Khalid al-Hasan offers the necessary explanations on the PLO's stand on the Jordanian concept of the future of relations and joint action between the two sides.

Received by King Husayn

JN280644 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT
28 Jan 85

[Text] Jordanian King Husayn received Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan yesterday. Al-Hasan arrived in Amman yesterday for talks on the future of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves on the Arab and international levels. Al-Hasan is expected to return to Tunis today to brief the Fatah Central Committee this evening on his talks in Amman.

AL-DUSTUR Pessimistic About New U.S. Peace Moves

JN251310 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Jan 85 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Confused Dreams"]

[Text] With the beginning of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's second term, U.S. political circles and mass media heralded new moves President Reagan is expected to make in order to settle the Middle East issue, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict. These circles went beyond this and spoke about the possibility of amending President Reagan's 1982 initiative in a way that would satisfy the two parties to the dispute and bring it closer to the Fes summit resolutions.

Meanwhile, European voices began to be heard from different places, in harmony with the reports coming from Washington, to delude the Arab peoples that there is actually a real intention by the United States and its European allies to end the stalemate that has prevailed in the region for some time and thereafter to achieve the desired peace.

Perhaps these predictions have been substantiated by the belief of some that President Reagan, having achieved victory in his second term without depending mainly on the Jewish vote, will be free to impose a just peace on Israel which, in turn, suffers from political and economic crises that may make it more willing to accept just political solutions to its conflict with the Arabs and Palestinians.

In this optimistic atmosphere — regrettably unjustified by the facts of the U.S. basic stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, a stand that does not change much with changes of presidents

some have started to attach more importance than logic allows to the coming visits by a number of Arab leaders to the U.S. capital next spring.

In this respect, Vice President George Bush yesterday intentionally aroused the inattentive and dissipated the dreams of the deluded when he announced, in a closed session with a number of Zionist leaders in the United States, that Washington is primarily interested in maintaining Israel's security. He said it is also interested in continuing implementation of the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, stressing that the U.S. Administration will hasten to establish the basic and permanent pillars of this cooperation. We need not mention that such statements at the beginning of President Reagan's second term do not herald the change that some are awaiting from the United States, a change in the stand of one who is involved and allied with Israel into the stand of the nonaligned mediator that is considered a basic condition for achieving peace.

The Arab states must not be surprised by this stand adopted by President Reagan's administration. In light of the current Arab state of deterioration and the impotence in achieving any meeting at the summit level or even on the foreign ministers level, there is nothing that will force Washington or other influential states to adopt a decisive, clear stand that will contribute to solving the dispute or do justice to the Palestinian people.

If the Arab states, despite the dangers and challenges, are so far unable even to meet in order to coordinate and attain mutual understanding on means of action and confrontation, if they choose the state of complete stalemate while the world is active around them, and if they relinquish their role and duty in directing the conflict to serve their interests, then how can these Arab states blame others as they no longer pay minimal attention to Arab causes?

Any international action in favor of Arab rights can only echo an Arab action that is courageous, determined, and explicit. In the absence of Arab action, hope for any initiative by the United States or other countries will be confused dreams.

AL-RAY Urges Summit To Face U.S. Policy

JN260846 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 26 Jan 85 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Very Significant Title"]

[Text] President Reagan has begun his second term by calling on Congress to allocate \$1.9 billion in military aid to Israel for 1986, that is, a \$0.5 billion increase to the military aid decided for Israel in 1985.

This is an appropriate beginning for U.S. policy toward the Palestinian cause during Reagan's second term. It suffices to remove any hopes of the emergence of a balanced U.S. policy after Reagan gets rid of the atmosphere of his election campaign. It shows that U.S. collusion with the Israeli aggressors will continue and that there is no sign it will be abandoned. In light of this fact, it will be useless to adhere to delusions of a U.S. balance. It is our duty to deal with the U.S. policy as a policy hostile to the Arab nation.

In order to confront the U.S. challenge and to crystallize a clear concept of the path to be followed, the Arabs should meet at the summit level to assess the stage, with all its dimensions and eventualities, and to define the responsibilities which every Arab party should assume in order to face the dangers to our nation.

Hence, any excuses or pretexts to procrastinate on or obstruct a summit conference will convince nobody. Any delay in holding the summit conference will necessarily lead to the continuation of Arab stalemate, allow the U.S.-Israeli collusion to reach a maximum, and encourage anti-Arab U.S. policy to become even more dangerous. Undoubtedly, the great increase of U.S. military aid to Israel for the next year is proof of this trend.

Therefore, the Arab leaders should meet to define the march. There is no time for meaningless differences, especially since U.S. hostility is not directed against one Arab party but against the Arab nation, its cause, and its aspirations to peace and stability.

SAWT AL-SHAB Calls on Arabs to Support Lebanon

JN260925 Amman SAWT AL-SHAB in Arabic 26 Jan 85 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Dangers Threatening Lebanon"]

[Text] It is strange to see some Lebanese face the Israeli occupiers with blood and fire to expel them from Lebanese territory while other Lebanese and Arabs fear the Israeli withdrawal and the confusion and disruption of security that may take place in the area from which the Israeli pull out, as if the Israeli invaders preserve security in the south now.

It was expected that Israel would play the card of its compulsory withdrawal from southern Lebanon skillfully at every opportunity. The preparations for widespread sedition and a massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps were expected. Action should be taken to abort the conspiratorial schemes through which Israel wants to show that its invasion forces are the only forces capable of protecting the Palestinian refugees.

The legitimate Lebanese forces have proved throughout all the security stages implemented since the national unity government assumed power that they are capable of controlling the situation with responsibility when they are given the opportunity to do so. The security steps taken by the national unity government have also proved that — although they were slow at times — that government was capable of moving whenever it was supported by Lebanese national detente.

However, the situation in southern Lebanon is more complicated now because Israel has encouraged and developed divisions

throughout the past 2 years and because the occupation directly opposed the Lebanese Government's plans to remove the effects of the so-called Peace for Galilee campaign.

Thus, Lebanon needs Arab and international support to overcome the obstacles placed by Israel while it tries to fulfill its sovereignty over its territory. Experience has taught us that neither UNIFIL nor the multinational forces is capable of assuming the responsibility required in southern Lebanon. Experience has also taught us that the ADF is incapable of assuming the mission so long as it cannot expel the invaders from Lebanon. Consequently, Lebanon should be given the necessary help so that its Armed Forces assume their mission of confronting Israel's challenge and conspiracies.

National Oil To Be Transferred to Refinery

JN261017 Amman SAWT AL-SHAB in Arabic 26 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Amman SAWT AL-SHAB — An official at the Energy and Mineral Wealth Ministry has asserted that the national team at the Natural Resources Authority has been able to control the flow of oil from the third Hamzah well. In a statement to SAWT AL-SHAB, the source said that the authority will install pumps at the three wells, Hamzah 1, Hamzah 2, and Hamzah 3, and connect them in a network and link it to storage tanks.

The source added: The current trend is to transfer the oil to the refinery by tankers until the study on a pipeline from the oil field to the Jordanian Oil Refinery is completed. The refinery is now processing the available quantities of Jordanian oil. The refinery made studies and analyses on the type and nature of this oil.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHAB on the hopes pinned on the flow of oil from Hamzah 3, Dr Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Industry and Trade Ministry, said: We are optimistic. We feel that the economic situation is gradually improving, although various circles have great confidence in our economy.

Royal Decree Issued Approving State Budget

JN262014 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the state budget for fiscal year 1985. The budget totals 811,222,000 dinars with a deficit of 16,735,000 dinars. The budget was approved earlier by the two houses of Parliament.

Further Coverage of Al-Naqurah Talks With Israel

Karami: Talks 'Suspended'

NC251935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Correspondent's dispatch from the Presidential Palace in Bahda — recorded]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rashid Karami emerged from the meeting at the Presidential Palace a few minutes ago and declared that the Cabinet will hold an extraordinary session on Sunday to adopt a number of measures connected with the dollar's rise in value and the restoration of the Lebanese pound's prestige. Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We met with Mr Urquhart, who briefed us on recent developments, the Israeli position, and Perez de Cuellar's views.

It appears to us that Israel has not changed its position and has not given a timetable for its withdrawal. We are still discussing these questions. Lebanon's position toward other subjects cannot be defined before the end of these talks. Therefore, we will continue to follow up Mr Urquhart's contacts by conveying our views — that we cannot accept such ambiguous and vague offers. We all know how clever Israel is with its positions and attempts at blackmail. We stress that the official position must be definite and final.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, will the Al-Naqurah talks remain deadlocked until Israel responds to Lebanon's demands?

[Karami] There is no doubt that the Al-Naqurah talks will remain suspended until we get the required answers. [end recording]

UN's Urquhart Meets Al-Jumayyil

NC251916 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart has stressed that the Al-Naqurah talks are not deadlocked. Following his meeting today with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Urquhart declared: The meeting was useful. We discussed those questions hindering the negotiations. There are no obvious solutions; the situation is in fact difficult. We are following up on our contacts through the offices of the UN secretary general. Our purpose is to help the Lebanese Government arrive at arrangements that will ensure the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the south.

When asked whether the Al-Naqurah talks will be resumed before the first phase of the withdrawal is completed, Urquhart said this depends on the Lebanese and Israeli Governments. UN officials held talks with the two countries, and they believe that the resumption of these negotiations is useful to both sides, as they deal with those military matters that will ensure the withdrawal. Everyone recognizes this point.

Commenting on the possibility of a sudden Israeli withdrawal from Sidon, Urquhart said: What I know is that, according to the Israeli Government's decision, this phase ends on 18 February.

Urquhart Leaves for Tel Aviv

NC261535 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] The official UN spokesman contacted the Voice of Lebanon this afternoon and said that Brian Urquhart, UN under secretary general for political affairs, left Al-Naqurah at 1440 today for Tel Aviv. At noon, Urquhart met with the UN delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks as well as with UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan. He then visited wounded UNIFIL soldiers at the UN military hospital.

Skaf to Chair New Information Committee for South

NC251415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] Information Minister Joseph Skaf has declared that the Cabinet has requested an information committee under his chairmanship be formed to make preparations for a media campaign to create the proper atmosphere for the Israeli withdrawals from the south and the Lebanese Army deployment into these areas.

The committee includes Michel Samahah, chairman of Lebanon's television board of directors; Dr Ayyub Humayyid, director general of the Information Ministry; Kazim al-Haji 'Ali, director of the Lebanese radio; Rafiq Shalala, director of the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY, and Dr 'Abd al-Karim Sinno.

Minister Skaf said that the committee's task is to carry out a media campaign for the Israeli withdrawal, to create the appropriate atmosphere for the Army entry into the south, ensuring the necessary media support for this step, and to focus attention on the southerners' demands and needs.

Minister Skaf will chair a meeting of the committee this coming week to prepare a working program which Minister Skaf will present to the Cabinet for approval.

Minister Salim al-Huss Submits Resignation

Urged To Withdraw Resignation

NC261448 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of education, labor, and social affairs, today expressed his desire to resign from the Cabinet and addressed a letter in this regard to Prime Minister Rashid Karami; it was delivered to him by Minister al-Huss' advisers, Faruq al-Barbir and Mahmud Hatab. Dr al-Huss today stayed home in Beirut and did not carry out any activity in his ministries.

Contacts on this development have been held on more than one level. President Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Ministers Nabih Birri, Joseph Skaf, and Joseph al-Hashim took part in these contacts in an effort to persuade Dr al-Huss to withdraw his resignation during these difficult circumstances through which the country is passing.

Contacts were held to learn the reasons that prompted Dr al-Huss to make this decision. As soon as he heard the news, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, held consultations with the Mufti's Office Consultative Council and made the following statement: We contacted Prime Minister Karami at the Presidential Palace and urged him to freeze Al-Huss' resignation until we hold the necessary contacts with Dr al-Huss to learn his viewpoint, and until we hold consultations with Islamic and nationalist leaders to take the appropriate step that will safeguard the national interest.

A delegation of the Mufti's Office Consultative Council, led by Dr Husayn al-Quwawthi, visited Dr Al-Huss in Al-Dawhah to learn the reasons for his resignation. After the delegation's visit, Dr al-Huss asked engineer Muhammad Qabbani to accompany the Consultative Council delegation to 'Aramun to inform his eminence Mufti Khalid about the reasons for the resignation.

In a statement he made on the matter, Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, said: Dr al-Huss is not allowed to leave the Cabinet, because his departure means the departure of the Cabinet. He pointed out that the announcement of the resignation is not accurate.

Birri on Al-Huss Resignation

NC261551 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] During the day, Minister of State Nabih Birri held a press conference at which he discussed a wide range of questions, including the resignation of Minister al-Huss. He pointed out that Dr al-Huss has not legally resigned, but that he was frustrated and disgusted over the present situation, especially in view of the deterioration in the economic situation and the failure of the government to work out means for reform.

Minister Birri said that efforts were continuing to persuade Minister al-Huss to change his mind, and he stressed that if the minister left the government, the whole situation would change completely, and he would have to reconsider his position also.

Minister Birri was highly critical of the state of the Lebanese pound, raising a number of questions on its erratic rise and fall against the dollar. He stressed that this was not only an economic issue, but a social issue as well. He pointed out that there were no justifications on the political and the security levels for the dollar to [word indistinct] as it has done in the past 2 days.

He said that the stand adopted by Minister al-Huss is one that might be adopted by several others. He pointed out that different factors affected people differently, and noted that the deterioration in the economic situation could have finally prompted Dr al-Huss to act, especially in view of irresponsible and ill-advised

statements made during the week, which undoubtedly contributed to the drop in the value of the Lebanese pound.

He stressed that the Cabinet tomorrow would be meeting in an emergency session, and pointed out that drastic and [word indistinct] measures were required. He stressed that the free economic system did not imply exploitation and speculation, and that insistence on secrecy did not mean protection of criminals.

Mufti Khalid Discusses Resignation

NC262044 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT
26 Jan 85

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, said this evening after receiving Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of education and labor, at his house in 'Aramun, that Dr al-Huss' decision to resign will be dealt with through the cooperation of the nationalist and political forces and through consultations with them. This could help us arrive at something that would reflect positively on this period through which we are passing, he said.

Mufti Khalid said: I have been informed about some of the reasons that prompted Dr al-Huss to decide to resign.

His eminence added: It is understood that political action is a partnership among politicians through which they try to reach patriotic positions and tangible achievements. When this principle is violated and when no consultations take place, this partnership suffers some weakness and deterioration. This resignation is due to the fact that weakness and deterioration has begun.

Mufti Khalid affirmed: What matters for us to maintain the principle of consultation, cooperation, dialogue, and partnership that will achieve the just demands of the citizens who want to ensure complete security and a healthy economy.

Asked whether in light of the contacts he has held and the visit Dr Al-Huss paid to him, he sees a possibility that Dr al-Huss will change his mind about his resignation, Mufti Khalid said: I cannot anticipate matters. I have just met with Dr al-Huss, who had made his decision after long consideration. I was surprised, but the decision was not unexpected.

This means, Mufti Khalid explained, that Dr al-Huss has been considering the issue for some time because of the difficulties in his work. Therefore, I cannot anticipate matters. It would be necessary to consult with many political leaders and with our brothers who have great experience in politics. We will consult with them and consider the matter, and then we will find out, after consultations with Dr al-Huss, whether there is a possibility of arriving at something in this regard.

Special Cabinet Session Postponed

NC270838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] We have been informed a short while ago that the Cabinet's special session, scheduled to be held at 1100 this morning,

has been postponed. Prime Minister Rashid Karami made a statement to this effect a short while ago. The prime minister said: "In light of the critical conditions dictating that current developments and several deadlines should be taken into consideration, it is imperative that the resignation submitted by former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, one of the pillars of the present government, should also be taken into consideration."

Prime Minister Karami added: "In light of all this and to give the current efforts to handle the situation in a way that would serve the public interest a chance, we decided to postpone the Cabinet's special session until the facts are clarified."

Al-Huss Withdraws Resignation

NC280527 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Minister Salim al-Huss withdrew his resignation at midnight last night. The Cabinet has decided to hold an extraordinary session at 1700 today to discuss the economic situation.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami will meet with Ministers Salim al-Huss and Nabih Birri this morning to deal with current issues.

Al-Jumayyil Examines Fall in Value of Pound

NC251540 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has been devoting all his time to the Lebanese pound's collapse against the U.S. dollar. He cancelled all his appointments and directed his efforts toward checking this plot against the Lebanese pound. He has been in constant touch with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the governor of the Lebanese Central Bank, and other economic officials since this morning to deal with the economic situation and to check the U.S. dollar's mad rise in value.

As a result of these contacts, several meetings took place at the Central Bank under the chairmanship of Central Bank Governor Dr Edmund Nu'aym. A number of experts, as well as economic and trade union officials, attended the sessions. The participants discussed the economic situation, the plot against the Lebanese pound, and ways to foil that plot.

We have learned that these high officials adopted a series of short-term measures to stop the pound's fall. Other precautionary measures will be announced in the near future. All our energies have been mobilized to check the U.S. dollar's rise in value.

President al-Jumayyil paid close attention to these meetings to speed up the implementation of these measures.

Karami To Visit Damascus 29 Jan

NC280541 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] We have learned that Prime Minister Rashid Karami will visit Damascus tomorrow.

VOI Reports Iranian Gunmen To Leave Al-Biq'a

NC271300 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that a senior Iranian official went to Al-Nabi Shit in Al-Biq'a 2 days ago. There, he held a secret meeting at the residence of Hezbollah official Husayn al-Musawi, during which a plan was drawn up for withdrawing all Iranian gunmen from Al-Biq'a and sending them to Iran.

The last batch of Iranian gunmen arrived in Ba'labakk 2 months ago. They were given charge of all the military posts there, while Lebanese Hezbollah personnel were relegated to administrative responsibilities.

Party Liaison Committee Discusses Security

NC252048 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Higher Liaison Committee for the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal movement, and Al-Murabitun held an expanded meeting this evening, attended by Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj, commander of Beirut's operations forces; Brigadier General 'Abd al-Halim Kanj, commander of the 6th Brigade; and a number of officers from the 6th Brigade.

They discussed the security arrangements implemented in West Beirut, particularly the closure of party offices, the removal of unofficial armed patrols, and the compliance by partisan gunmen to agreed upon commitments.

Phalangists Deny Military Presence on Coastal Road

NC262037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A Lebanese Forces official source has affirmed that the Lebanese Forces have no military presence on the coastal road. He said that the obstacles impeding the permanent reopening of the road are caused by the roadblocks erected by Junblatt's followers and their supporters between Khaldah and Al-Sa'diyat. The area between Al-Sa'diyat and Al-Awwali, where the Lebanese Forces are stationed, is passable and safe. Only patrols and checkpoints patrolled by the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces exist there.

The source also said that the Lebanese Forces are surprised by the allegations of certain parties that the Lebanese Forces still have some units on the coastal road and in Iqlim al-Kharrub. These parties deliberately ignore Junblatt's reinforcements in that area.

They also ignore concentrations by dissident Palestinians, who arrived in the coastal Al-Shuf area over the past 3 days. The source said that what remains of the Lebanese Forces are the sons of Iqlim al-Kharub, and their tasks are confined to removing barriers and reopening the internal road in implementation of the agreed-upon security plan.

Resistance Warns France, Italy; Demands Release

NC 270656 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front issued a statement on Friday night in which it warned French and Italian authorities of the consequences of continuing to detain some of its members. The statement said:

The Lebanese National Resistance Front, in line with its policy of confronting the Zionist enemy and those collaborating with it locally and internationally, has carried out the following military operations:

- Opened fire on the U.S. charge d'affaires in Paris, Christian Edisson Chapman, and wounded him;

- Executed the death sentence on Colonel Charles Ray, the U.S. Military Attache in Paris;

- Detonated a booby-trapped motorcycle in front of the Israeli Embassy in Paris killing the head of the Israeli purchases office in France and his assistant;

- Executed the death sentence on Ya'akov Bar Siman-Tov, the second secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Paris who was in charge of Mosad in Europe;

- Executed the death sentence on U.S. General Leamon Hunt, the former commander of the disengagement forces in Sinai and director of the NATO Office in Rome; and

- Opened fire on and wounded the U.S. Consul in Strasbourg.

Following these operations, the Italian and French authorities, with the cooperation of the Lebanese forces, arrested strugglers 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Mansuri, 'Abd al-Qadir Sa'di, and Josephine Sarkis 'Abdu, even though these three strugglers had no military responsibility for any of the abovementioned operations carried out by the Lebanese National Resistance Front.

Continuing their attack on the strugglers, the Lebanese Forces are carrying out a series of arrests and interrogations in the eastern sector of Beirut under the supervision of Interpol, Mosad, and the U.S., French, and Italian intelligence services. These arbitrary arrests have included dozens of people who are relatives or friends of the strugglers. They are subjecting them to torture, terror, and ill-treatment without any regard for their basic rights. These terrorist and fascist practices have also not spared women, some of whom are still being detained in the cells of the Phalangists' Deuxieme Bureau and have been undergoing interrogation for a number of weeks.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front reminds the Italian and French authorities that it still regards France and Italy as neutral powers in the present struggle in the region against the U.S.-supported Israeli occupation. However, by continuing to detain the strugglers and not releasing them, these authorities are taking the side of our enemies.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front cannot remain silent on this hostile stand, hence, it warns France and Italy of the consequences of the continued detention of the strugglers and demands their immediate release.

Reportage on Visit of Salimov, Soviet Delegation

Al-Ahmar Receives Salimov

JN261251 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party, received the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Akil Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, the assistant secretary general welcomed the guest delegation and praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party and CPSU as well as between the two friendly peoples and countries. Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the activities of the Ba'ith Party and developments in Syria since the corrective movement under struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general and the republic's president. He pointed out the positive results of the eighth regional congress of the party aimed at entrenching the principled and political line of Syria, and at defining the future course to continue the march of progress and socialism and to strengthen cooperation and friendship with the socialist countries, particularly the USSR.

The comrade assistant secretary general noted Syria's role in confronting imperialist-Zionist schemes against the entire Arab region.

Salimov praised Syria's national and progressive role and asserted the USSR's role in support of the Syrian people and party under struggler Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad in their confrontation of imperialism and its schemes and Zionist aggression, and in their march toward social and economic progress. He asserted the depth of joint struggle by the two countries' parties and peoples and the importance of these relations to reinforce the struggle of world liberation forces to achieve national independence and social progress and to entrench peace in the world.

Al-Kasm Meets With Salimov

JN261434 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1305 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Akil Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the members of his delegation here today. The Soviet ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the close cooperative relations between Syria and the Soviet Union — relations that continue to develop in the various fields in order to promote the firm bases of Syrian-Soviet relations, and to strengthen the joint principles to confront the aggressive imperialist-Zionist policies in the region and everywhere in the world.

Dr Al-Kasm also stressed the current problems in the region that make it incumbent on all the progressive and peace-loving forces to further strengthen their effective cooperation in order to stop those who want to peddle liquidatory plots against the Palestine

question and contain the Arab masses' struggle. He added that these masses will not be deceived by new plans to impose capitulation on them, and that Syria's position under President Hafiz al-Asad will continue to express the pan-Arab struggle and the will to reject any hegemony over the region under new slogans. He also explained Syria's efforts to achieve good economic and social results in the development projects that support political and military steadfastness. He also explained how Syria managed to achieve most of the development objectives despite its defense burdens.

Salimov expressed his thanks for the warm reception that was accorded to him and his delegation, and stressed that the Soviet Union highly appreciates the march of friendship and cooperation with Syria and Syria's leading struggle in the region. Salimov said that the Soviet Union will continue to exert all efforts to enable Syria to achieve victory against all the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. The Soviet guest also praised the social and economic progress that have been achieved through implementing development projects. He added that the Syrian people are made strong by their Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party and their leader President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Asad Meets With Salimov

JN271548 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA) — This afternoon, President Hafiz al-Asad received a USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Akil Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and USSR Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR.

Salimov praised the progress Syria has achieved in all fields and its distinguished role in the region. He said that the Soviet Union highly appreciates Syria's principled stands in defense of Arab rights and against imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Salimov indicated the Soviet Union's appreciation of the personal role President Hafiz al-Asad has played to achieve the great position Syria is occupying in the region and within the front of countries that are hostile to imperialism and racism in the world.

Salimov asserted that the Soviet Union supports Syria's stands in confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes, and will continue to promote relations with Syria on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty concluded between the two countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the Syrian and Soviet Governments and between the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party and the CPSU. He also expressed Syria's determination to continue promoting these relations to benefit the two sides and then joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and to achieve a just peace.

President al-Asad praised the Soviet Union's stands in support of our just struggle against occupation, imperialism, and Zionism, and for the sake of a just and lasting peace.

Khaddam Receives Salimov

JN272116 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2005 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA) — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Aki Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. USSR Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR, the current international situation, and the situation and developments in the region.

Al-Zu'bi, Salimov Sign Communiqué

JN271352 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1313 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA) — The Joint communiqué on the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation's visit to Syria and the talks it held with the People's Assembly delegation was signed today. People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the communiqué for the Syrian side, and Aki Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, signed for the Soviet side. The members of both delegations and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus attended.

After signing the communiqué, Mahmud al-Zu'bi expressed his pleasure because the friendly Soviet delegation's visit to Syria coincided with the beginning of a new stage drawn up by the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party. Al-Zu'bi said this visit is an important expression of the continued Soviet support for Syria's stands and struggle in the battle of construction and liberation. He highly praised the USSR's honorable stands in support of Arab causes and its initiatives in the service of these just causes.

Aki Salimov, head of the Soviet delegation, praised the outcome of his visit as well as his impressions and those of the delegation accompanying him about the manifestations of progress and development in all walks of life. He also praised the Syrian people's struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad to build a national economy, to raise the standard of the popular masses, and to strengthen this militant state against imperialism and Zionism. He also stressed the importance of the results of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party and its discussion of important issues of mutual concern.

Salimov emphasized that cooperation between the two countries continues to strengthen on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries. He stressed that the Soviet Union will continue to support Syria in its just struggle for liberation and development. He also praised relations between the People's Assembly and the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the need to strengthen them and exchange visits and expertise.

At the end of his statement, he thanked People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi for allowing the delegation to make this fruitful, successful visit.

Salimov Comments on Visit

JN272001 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Aki Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, made a statement to a television correspondent in which he expressed his country's great appreciation for Syria's important role under President Hafiz al-Asad in its struggle for the liberation and independence of the Arab countries and against the U.S.-supported Israeli aggression.

Salimov said: "The Soviet delegation members had unforgettable impressions of their meeting with Comrade Hafiz al-Asad who reiterated the strong friendship and cooperation between our countries, parties, and peoples. He pointed out that this cooperation, which has been developing throughout long years, was crowned by the agreement of friendship and cooperation that was signed in 1980 and which constituted a strong basis for the development of our relations and contributed to reinforcing national liberation forces, progress, and confrontation with the hostile policy practiced by imperialism and Zionism."

Salimov asserted that a good indication of the dynamic nature of the cooperation between the USSR and Syria are the visits exchanged between the Soviet and Syrian leaders and the active contacts between the official and social organizations. President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow in October 1984, his meeting with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, and their talks on mutual issues and stands reinforced friendship and understanding between the USSR and Syria.

Salimov expressed his admiration and that of the Soviet people for the achievements of the Arab Syrian people and their serious continued efforts to develop their national economy. He pointed out the joint efforts by the Syrian workers and the Soviet experts who offer their experience to friendly Syria.

Salimov reiterated his country's stand toward the Middle East issue. He said: "The USSR's principled stand on the Mideast issue stems from its concern that all people in the world should live in security and peace. The Soviet proposals on the Middle East are based on this concept."

Answering a question about the expected talks between the USSR and the United States on nuclear arms, Salimov said: "The USSR is concerned with keeping the world away from a nuclear war. He said seeking peace is one of the USSR's foreign policy principles. We are glad that the struggle we are waging to prevent war and to achieve peace and equivalent cooperation among the peoples is also waged by countries which consider the defense of common interests of all peoples one of their main objectives."

Concluding his statement, Salimov expressed his happiness and that of his accompanying delegation for the meetings he held in Syria — the meetings that mirrored the principled and firm

stands of both countries. He said: The Soviet-Syrian relations are a response to the interests of our people and for the issue of peace and progress in the world. These relations are an example of equivalent and fruitful cooperation among countries, and of their solidarity in struggle against imperialist aggressive conspiracies.

Salimov expressed his hope that the Syrian people will achieve more success in building a prosperous future, in their struggle against aggression and imperialist conspiracies, and in their march along the path of peace, prosperity, and progress.

Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Leaves for Tehran

*JN261022 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT
26 Jan 85*

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus for Tehran this morning with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Lebanese Officials Arrive in Damascus 27 Jan

*JN272104 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT
27 Jan 85*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus; carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Former Lebanese Minister Marwan Hamadah accompanied by Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) members Akram Shuhayb and Faruq al-Barbir arrived in Damascus this afternoon. Immediately after their arrival, they met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Following the meeting, which lasted 90 minutes, Marwan Hamadah said that they discussed matters in the Lebanese arena, and Salim al-Huss' resignation from the Cabinet. He added that another meeting will take place tonight with Khaddam to be attended by PSP leader Walid Junblatt. Junblatt arrived in Damascus this evening.

'Text' of Ba'th Party Regional Congress Statement

*JN252226 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2036 GMT
25 Jan 85*

["Text" of statement issued by the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held in Damascus from 5 to 20 January 1985 —read by announcer]

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Congress held its eighth session from 5 January to 20 January 1985. It was opened by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Party, with an important directive speech in which he talked about the current situation and the features of the next stage. The congress adopted the speech as a guideline for the congress and Party in the coming stage.

With a high spirit of historic responsibility and with a great realization of the circumstances facing the Arab nation in gen-

eral and Syria in particular, due to its pan-Arab and militant position, the congress studied the political, economic, and organizational reports submitted by the Party's Central Committee. The congress discussed the current international situation and the state of tension dominating the world as a result of the U.S. policies, and these policies' reflections on world security and peace and on the world economy and the Third World countries, particularly on our region and the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The conference also reviewed with satisfaction the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. It highly valued the support and backing being extended by the socialist countries, headed by the friendly Soviet Union, which is linked with Syria by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. It also reviewed the development of Syrian relations with the socialist countries in general and with the Soviet Union in particular and the means to bolster them.

The congress was briefed on the Nonaligned Movement's role and activities in the international field, particularly in connection with the Middle East region and the support the states of this movement are extending to the Arabs in their just struggle against the Zionist aggression. It stressed the need to bolster this movement and develop bilateral relations with its countries. The congress also discussed the European countries' policy toward the situation in our region and these countries' stands during the past years.

The congress was briefed on the situation in South Africa and the Party's stand in support of the African liberation forces' struggle for independence and resistance to racism and racial discrimination. It was also briefed on the stand toward the world liberation forces and the ways to support them. The congress gave special attention to all aspects of the situation in the Middle East, and studied the objectives of the U.S. hegemonic policy and the strategic alliance between the United States and the Israeli enemy, and the objectives of this alliance aimed at tightening the U.S. domination of the region, reinforcing the Zionist entity in Palestine and the region, and liquidating the forces of freedom and progress in order to control the region, its strategic location, and its vital resources.

The congress noted that it was within the framework of this U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place in June 1982, in addition to the attempts to turn the fraternal country into an advanced base for U.S. imperialism and the Israeli enemy by which they can encircle Syria. The congress highly valued the firm policy adopted by Syria under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Party, in the face of the U.S.-Israeli schemes, in confronting the Israeli aggression, and in foiling its objectives, as well as confronting the U.S. militaristic policy in Lebanon — a confrontation that played an important role in the defeat of the United States, the withdrawal of its forces, and in inflicting a joint defeat on U.S. policy and the hostile Israeli policy through toppling the 17 May agreement and the formation of a national unity government in Lebanon and the Lebanese sides' agreement on a national reform program.

The congress highly praised the efforts of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party, to achieve fraternal Lebanon's national accord, security, and stability, and to achieve the complete, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. The congress also highly praised the nationalist resistance in southern Lebanon and its historic role in repulsing the aggression.

Within the framework of studying the Middle East situation, the congress discussed the Central Committee's report on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian issue and to close the file on the conflict with the Zionist enemy in the service of the U.S. and Israeli strategies. These attempts became apparent through U.S. settlement plans that were proposed for the region, and through U.S. military and political activities and the activities of its tools in the region.

The congress expressed satisfaction with Syria's principled course in light of the Party's resolutions and strategies and the directives of the Party's secretary general and leader of the march. This course contributed to foiling these designs and plans out of the conviction that peace has its conditions and requirements. The first of these conditions is achieving a balance of power between Syria and the Israeli enemy, and the first of these requirements is achieving the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and safeguarding the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

While discussing the Arab situation and its reflections on the arena of conflict with the Israeli enemy, the congress discussed the attempts of certain Arab regimes that have a close link with U.S. policy to establish a front — a front comprising the fascist Iraqi regime, the Jordanian regime, the Camp David regime in Egypt, and the deviant Palestinian rightists — and the attempts to enable this front to play a major role in the U.S. Middle East strategy, including confronting the pan-Arab course within the Arab arena — a course in which Syria constitutes the main pillar. In this regard, the congress discussed the country's policy on attempts to establish such a front. While reviewing the Arab situation and the prevalent division which led to the absence of a pan-Arab depth to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the weakening of the Arabs and the paralysis of their capabilities, the congress studied the factors and causes that created this situation. Foremost of these causes was the U.S. role that is aimed at fragmenting the Arabs and placing them in a state of incompetence and despair in order to enable the United States to guarantee its strategic interests and the Israeli enemy's security and superiority. The congress affirmed the dangers of the continuation of this Arab situation and stressed the need to achieve Arab solidarity on the basis of hostility to Zionism and imperialism and mobilizing Arab energies and capabilities in the face of the principal enemy — the Israeli enemy and the imperialist, hegemonistic policy in the region.

The congress was acquainted with the current, tense situation in the Arab Gulf region as a result of the war the fascist Iraqi regime launched against the Iranian revolution — a war that has removed fraternal Iraq from the main arena of conflict and destroyed great capabilities that should have been used against

the Israeli enemy. Moreover, this war has hampered the Iranian revolution's role which declared, among other objectives, a willingness to share with the Arabs in the liberation of Palestine. The Iranian revolution also expelled the U.S. presence from Iran.

It was clear to the congress that the attempts to create an imaginary enemy for the Arabs east of the Arab homeland, and to create regional interests in the Gulf region have led to weakening the Arab front in the face of the Israeli enemy. During the discussion of the Arab situation, the congress discussed with great concern the growth of the phenomenon of regional interests at the expense of pan-Arab interests, and the consequences of this on the Arabs' future, their objectives, and their common interests. The congress attached special importance to the issue of entrenching the unionist ideology and creating the circumstances that will push the issue of unity to its natural position.

The congress also discussed the popular Arab situation and the need to bolster popular awakening, cohesion and cooperation among the popular forces and organizations, and the Arab policy to confront the threats to the Arab nation. The congress also discussed the developments that have taken place and are taking place in the Palestinian arena. They discussed the serious deviation taking place that is represented by the leadership of the Palestinian right wing, and the steps this leadership has taken to involve the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon and to turn the revolution from an armed liberation movement that struggles for liberating the homeland into a political movement to participate in foiling the national militant aspirations in order to facilitate a liquidatory settlement of the Palestine question. The most recent of these steps was the convocation of the divisionist council in Amman, which has paralyzed the PLO and turned it into a bridge to liquidate the Palestine question.

The congress has reviewed the Palestinian confrontation of the Palestinian right wing's course, and the efforts being exerted by the armed resistance factions and the Palestinian nationalist figures in order to safeguard the Palestinian revolution, redress its course, return it to its natural position in the armed struggle against the Israeli enemy, and establish a Palestinian national front that includes the armed factions, the nationalist figures, and the PLO Executive Committee members under the PNC speaker.

The congress discussed the campaign of the suspect slanders that the deviationist Palestinian right wing has launched against Syria, its leadership, and armed forces at a time when Syria stands alone and its people suffer and offer sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and our Palestinian Arab people's rights.

During the discussion of the question of the conflict with the Israeli enemy, the congress reviewed the leadership's efforts to implement the slogan proposed by the comrade secretary general of the Party and the leader of the march to achieve a strategic balance between Syria and the Israeli enemy. The congress highly appreciated these efforts, especially in the field of building the armed forces, developing their capability, organization, and training, and promoting their combat preparedness and effectiveness. These forces have become a source of great pride for our people and nation through the progress they have achieved, which has made them the strong arm of the progressive and pan-Arab

course of our Party and country. This has made Syria a major regional force playing the major role in the Arab arena to defend the Arabs' rights, their dignity, and future.

Within the framework of discussing the domestic situation, the congress reviewed the efforts to strengthen the domestic front, especially since it is the cornerstone on which our national and pan-Arab struggle is based in order to achieve our party's objectives — particularly at a stage that is characterized by fateful and decisive confrontation between us on the one hand, and the Zionist entity and its ally U.S. imperialism and their tools in the region, on the other. The size of the threats to the Arab nation and the Arab soil, the state of the existing aggression, the fateful conflict that the Arab nation is waging, the plots against Syria and its progressive and pan-Arab regime, and our Party's struggle to achieve a society of progress and socialism and to entrench its material base — all this necessitated that the congress attach special importance and focus on a very strong domestic front that provides the country with the elements of strength and steadfastness, and enables it to wage the struggle with all its various forms and methods to achieve our Party's objectives under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Party.

The congress noted that despite the complicated and difficult circumstances that we have encountered, including an Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the threat of aggression against Syria, external economic and political pressures, and conspiracy against the country and its pan-Arab, progressive course, the Party managed to confront all this through an internal, strong, and cohesive front and through a national, popular mobilization whose two principles were: first, our people's deep pan-Arab feeling and their pride in their national affiliation, with which they have been characterized throughout the previous stages, even during their suffering under colonialism and under reactionary and dictatorial governments; and second, the presence of the historic leader comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Party, who enjoys a clear vision of the future, a deep belief in his nation's cause, courage in leading the country under the most difficult and crucial circumstances, and a deep belief in the people and their capabilities. All this has had a profound impact since the birth of the Corrective Movement in producing an unparalleled popular rallying around the Party and its progressive, pan-Arab system.

It has become clear that all attempts at conspiracy and aggression have crashed against our internal front. Syria emerged stronger and more capable of offering sacrifices, and has become the Arabs' only hope under their current dark circumstances in confronting Israeli aggression and U.S. hegemonistic designs. This stage has been characterized by a wide popular rallying around the Party and its secretary general comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. Moreover, this stage has been characterized by our people's enlightened and responsible realization of the nature of the stage, which enabled them to persevere and offer sacrifices without any hesitation. Thus, the name of Syria and its leader have become linked to the cause of liberation, confronting aggression and all forms of imperialism, resisting colonialism, and extending support to liberation and progressive forces. All this greatly contributed to the prestige of the struggle of our Party and people.

The congress reviewed the great achievements during the past 5 years in the economic, social, educational, and services fields, and the great success in the fields of development and building the economic foundation and its requirements. It also reviewed the country's completion of building a broad, advanced infrastructure through completing a major, integrated road network, a coordinated railroad network, expanding the ports and making great strides in spreading electricity and water networks, and implementing large, small, and surface dam projects.

Moreover, agricultural production has been expanded and diversified and a number of industries that promote economic development such as chemical, engineering, and metal industries have been established. The great achievements in the fields of economic and social development, and in the field of practicing popular democracy through the formulas of the People's Assembly and local administration councils at all levels and in popular and professional organizations; the issuance of a great amount of principal legislation to organize the society and government; and the vanguard role of the economic public sector has enabled Syria to make great strides toward building the material basis that enables our people to stand fast and build a progressive, socialist society.

While studying the economic situation, the congress studied ways of increasing the effectiveness of the economic sector, and the principles and means of dealing with the economic difficulties and strangulation that reflect on the people's affairs. While the material foundation for the progressive, socialist society was being built, the revolution's generation was being raised that will shoulder the responsibility of the future not only of this country, but of the Arab nation at large. Our popular organizations, which have played an important and effective role in building this country and in entrenching popular democracy and traditions, contributed along with the Party in the process of building and construction. The congress stressed that the tremendous accomplishments achieved in all fields of life side by side with the progressive, pan-Arab trend and the building of the armed forces, who are committed to the Party and its leader, have enabled Syria to confront the U.S. and Zionist imperialist schemes and some reactionary circles, and to foil all attempts aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and entrenching a state of Arab despair and frustration.

During its study of the domestic situation, the congress discussed the plot of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang, which came in implementation of the plans of imperialism and some of its tools in the region through bases of support, supplies, and training, and help from Jordan and Iraq. The congress also reviewed the measures taken to liquidate that agent gang and to pursue its elements, since this gang committed individual and collective crimes of murder against the Syrian citizens and carried out sabotage acts against the public sector's establishments. It praised the measures and efforts that were exerted by the Party, state, the Progressive National Front's parties, the popular organizations, and the Syrian citizens in general to liquidate this gang and foil the imperialist-Zionist schemes it was implementing.

The congress studied with great attention the steps taken to bolster the domestic front. It stressed the need to develop and increase the effectiveness of the Progressive National Front. The

conference noted that along with the large accomplishments, our people's steadfastness, and the domestic front's cohesion in and promotion of confrontation, fortitude, and sacrifice, negative aspects emerged. Some of these aspects were an extension of the period preceding the seventh regional congress; others emerged in the period that followed its convocation. They were not dealt with decisively and effectively and our people put up with them because they concentrated their efforts on more important issues; namely, the issues of destiny facing our nation. Most prominent among these negative aspects is negligence in some of the state organs and establishments, the absence of the feeling of responsibility by some in several sectors, the emergence of the phenomenon of carelessness, the failure to adopt suitable measures in some cases of development in the various branches of the economy, the higher administrative leaderships' failure to follow up the lower leaderships' implementation of decisions and plans, the growth of the phenomenon of disrespecting law and order, and the failure to effectively and decisively apply the principle of accountability. All these phenomena have reflected negatively on economic and living conditions, administrative and professional efficiency, and both production and prices. The congress studied the ways and means to decisively and radically deal with these negative phenomena.

The congress studied the situation in the occupied Syrian territories and the ways to support our kinfolk who are suffering from the pains of aggression and who are confronting the Israeli aggressors with great patience and faith. After discussing the domestic situation, the congress stressed the need to abide by the directives of the secretary general as given in his important directive speech at the congress' opening session, particularly his words: "Our march is long and is not strewn with flowers; it is a march of right and justice; a march of defending the destiny of the people and nation, and we have to prepare for this. Let us bolster our national unity, let us promote the level of the masses' organization, let us promote our Party's activity to the maximum possible degree, and let us deepen the experience of the Progressive National Front, especially since we have had 13 years of experience that was rich and pioneering. Let us improve the methods of our administrative and economic work, let us deepen the feeling of responsibility in all, let us continue to expand the organization and training of youths, let us go as far as possible in organizing the workers and peasants, let us continue to build our armed forces, let us implant sacrifice in the hearts of all our citizens as a major value that is not surpassed by any other value, and let us march ahead with optimism and confidence until victory."

The congress discussed with great satisfaction the historic role of comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Party, in leading this stage, and his efforts and the success he has achieved in the arena of conflict in the region. This has foiled the Zionist, imperialist, and reactionary plans, entrenched the progressive and pan-Arab course, and put Syria in its natural position in leading the Arab struggle to achieve the Arab nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism.

The congress discussed the organizational report regarding the Party's activity in the various fields and its leading role in strengthening the domestic front, the state, and society, and in

confronting all forms of deviation and conspiracies, particularly the conspiracy of the Muslim brothers' agent gang and the martyrs it has offered. The congress also reviewed the development of the Party organ and its growth in the civil and military sectors. It reviewed the level of preparedness and organization, and the great effectiveness of the Party organizations and our Party comrades. The congress also discussed the issue of bolstering the Party's role in leading the state and society, and in controlling and following the implementation of the regional congresses' decisions in a manner that would provide an effective control to push the march of work and production.

The congress expressed its great satisfaction with the popular progress that the organizations and the trade unions have achieved in their work, and their effective role under the Party's leadership. The congress discussed the continuation of work in the state's various institutions and ministries, and stressed the need to promote the work of the state's organs, their effectiveness, and good performance.

Following the discussion of the political, economic, and organizational reports, the congress discussed the recommendations presented by the Central Committee and the congress' members, and adopted decisions and recommendations that are related to the coming stage in the political, economic, services, educational, cultural, and organizational fields, whether regarding the Party, the popular organizations, or the trade unions. The following are some of the decisions and recommendations:

I. In the political field:

A. The Arab nation's short-term objective:

1. Liberating all the occupied Arab territories and the nonrelinquishment of any part of them.
2. The restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.
3. The continuation of work to foil the Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords and all the policies that seek to achieve partial or unilateral settlements.
4. Supporting Lebanon in its struggle for liberating its territory from the Israeli enemy, and supporting the efforts to achieve national accord in the fraternal country and to restore its peace, security, and stability.

B. In Arab policy:

1. Continuing the work to entrench and support the unionist course and bolster struggle in this direction to confront the growth of the narrow and hateful regional trends which play an important role in fragmenting the Arab nation, its potentials, and capabilities.
2. Continuing the work for dealing with the Arab situation and for finding suitable solutions to this situation in order to mobilize the Arab nation's potentials to resist the Zionist aggression,

liberate the Arab territories, and to restore the Palestinian Arab people's national and inalienable rights.

3. Following the course of political flexibility in relations with the Arab states to serve the Arab nation's fateful struggle against Zionism.

4. Strengthening the struggle of the Arab masses, their popular organizations, and their national and progressive forces to confront the general deteriorating situation in the Arab homeland, to confront the defeatist and isolationist policies which some Arab governments are propagating, and to resist the Zionist and imperialist plans of hegemony.

5. Extending all means of support for the Palestinian revolution's factions to continue the revolution's struggle against the Zionist enemy. Strengthening the armed struggle course, and rejecting the serious deviation of the PLO's right wing which has obstructed the PLO's national and militant role and turned it into a bridge to be used by the conspirators to liquidate the question.

6. Denouncing the Palestinian right wing's deviationist course which aims at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and its central cause, the Palestine question. The congress also denounces the Amman divisionist meeting and considers its results contradictory to the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations. It also condemns the campaign of delusion, distortion, and slander that the Palestinian right wing launches against Syria and its armed forces.

C. In international policy:

In the field of international conferences, organizations, and institutions:

1. Exerting efforts and holding effective contacts at the United Nations, its organizations, and institutions to besiege the Israeli enemy, isolate it, condemn it, expose its expansionist plans, hostile nature, and its threat to peace and security; and issuing positive resolutions regarding the Palestine question and the issue of the occupied territory in order to keep Arab rights alive and in front of world public opinion, and continuously presenting the cause in the international arena.

2. Supporting and developing the Nonaligned Movement in accordance with the current stage of the international situation on the basis of confronting Zionism, imperialism, facism, and all forms of discrimination in international relations; supporting all the forces that confront this discrimination; and reactivating the Movement's efforts to continue supporting the Arab stand and the Arabs' just struggle; isolating the Israeli enemy and making decisions in this regard including implementing all forms of sanctions against the Zionist entity; and promoting relations and cooperation with this movement's states in bilateral fields.

3. Benefiting from the ICO to strengthen the Arab stand in the international arena and to provide the greatest possible support for the Arab states' struggle against the Zionist enemy, and also working for the need to have those states that have relations with the Israeli entity sever them.

4. Supporting and backing the national liberation movements, particularly in the African Continent, with all possible means, especially since their struggle against racism is linked with the struggle against Zionism and imperialism, and their struggle for national liberation is linked with our struggle for liberation.

D. In relations with the socialist states:

1. The congress recommends the promotion of cooperation with the socialist states in all fields.

2. The congress recommends promoting relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR on the basis of the friendship and cooperation agreement that was signed between the two countries on 8 October 1980 in all fields to bolster joint struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

E. In relations with the European states:

Working for promoting our relations with the European states, expanding cooperation with these states in order to develop their stands toward our basic issues, and holding contacts with the circles of European public opinion to explain our issues and stress the relations between security in Europe and the Middle East, and to point out the dangers posed by the continuation of aggression against economic and political development in the European states.

F. In relations with other countries:

Defining our relations with any state in a manner that would serve our pan-Arab issues, and benefiting from all the economic, political, and cultural factors inside and outside these states within the framework that serves our general policy.

G. In the field of expatriates:

The congress stresses the need to continue strengthening relations with the Arab expatriates, reactivating ties and contacts with them, developing their feelings toward the mother homeland, increasing their sympathy with pan-Arab issues, and both bolstering and reactivating bilateral relations with the expatriates' countries.

H. In domestic policy:

1. In the field of dealing with negative phenomena:

a. Being stringent in applying the principle of accountability to all participants in the aforementioned negative phenomena.

b. Entrusting the Regional Command with the task of submitting a report to the Central Committee on the practical measures adopted to deal with the negative phenomena, including the measures of accountability and those related to organizing work in the state establishments in a manner that guarantees a new treatment of all these phenomena.

c. Emphasizing the principle of accountability as soon as the mistake is made without waiting until mistakes accumulate as a result of negligence and lack of feeling of responsibility.

d. The congress requests the new leadership to draw up controls for private and public behavior by which the Party members and state officials should abide in order to safeguard them against deviation.

e. Bolstering and implementing the principle of popular control via the Party and democratic institutions and popular organizations.

2. In the field of the Progressive National Front:

For the sake of developing the Front's current position, the party leadership is working to achieve the following in the coming stage:

a. Achieving further cohesion and interaction among the Front's organizations in the various branches for the sake of bolstering joint confrontation of the tasks of the next stage.

b. Adopting measures to implement the comrade secretary general's direction on developing the Front in a manner that guarantees the participation of the national and popular functionaries in the Front's activity and in increasing its effectiveness in national action.

c. The Party should give due attention to reactivating the Front's activity in a manner that contributes to bolstering the revolution's march and the domestic front's cohesion.

3. In the field of leading the state and society:

a. Continuing work to bolster the domestic front and mobilizing our people's masses in order to confront the external aggression and the internal plotting, and for the sake of building the society of progress and socialism.

b. Continuing work to achieve the slogan of strategic balance with all its economic, cultural, military, and political aspects.

c. Entrusting the new Regional Command with the task of studying the current formula regarding the Party's relationship with the authority in light of the implementation of this formula and in light of what has been achieved during the previous stage in a manner that will lead to a more accurate implementation of the principle of the Party's leadership of both the Party and society. The study and the resulting formula should be submitted to the Central Committee for study and adoption.

d. Modernizing the mechanism of work in the state and developing the administrative and legal relations in the various institutions so that they can be more capable of serving the people and meeting their needs.

e. Showing no leniency in applying the principle of the sovereignty of law and order and preventing any encroachment on it.

f. Defining and expanding the powers of the leading centers in the various state establishments and holding those occupying these posts fully responsible on all levels of work for the sake of eliminating the phenomena of delinquency, negligence, and corruption and improving the production process.

g. Taking to task those who avoid the responsibilities entrusted to them by laws and regulations.

h. Developing the news media and media plans in a manner that leads to a better employment of these media in contributing to the implementation of the Party's policy and the mobilization of the masses on both the regional and pan-Arab levels provided that the requirements to do so are provided.

i. Supporting the central body of the inspection and control departments, including internal control organs in the government ministries and institutions. Following up the implementation of the body's reports and entrusting the central control organ with the task of submitting regular reports on its work to the Regional Command.

j. Entrusting the government with the task of submitting regular reports to the Regional Command on its work and the implementation of the government's plans and the resolutions of the conferences of the Party and its command.

k. Reinforcing the role of the popular organizations to enable them to play a wider role in the fields related to their operations.

II. In the economic field:

Drawing up a program to achieve equilibrium in the national economy in the service of the Party's strategy in defense, development, and progress according to the following principles:

A. Dealing with the situation in the public sector, making its requirements available, and raising the technical and administrative standards of its work force such that its vanguard role in the national economy is reinforced.

B. Directing the country's surplus currency toward economic development within the framework of the government's economic and social plan such that requirements of national production become available. Adopting the steps and measures that will help to achieve this.

C. Encouraging and directing savings toward development investment.

D. Drawing up a gradual program to reduce consumption and combat waste in the public and private sectors.

E. Providing guidance in energy use and exploration of alternatives to oil.

F. Linking resources, expenditure, production, and consumption.

G. Adopting measures necessary for increasing exports, including studying the issue of attaining an encouraging value for the pound against foreign currency.

H. Linking the external trade plan and the foreign currency plan.

I. Concentrating efforts in the agricultural and animal sectors and speeding up the development of these sectors whether through land reclamation, building of dams, or the use of machin-

ery. Adopting the appropriate measures to develop this sector including providing its requirements.

J. Activating the national industry, improving its working conditions, and making its requirements available so that production and quality are improved and exports are increased.

K. Encouraging and backing mixed sectors and making available their requirements.

L. Encouraging the private sector to invest its capabilities in the production sectors within the framework of the government's plan, removed from exploitation and within the framework of an economic policy that will assist in economic advancement and in developing and benefiting the country.

M. Endeavoring to achieve a balance between the policies of wages, production, and prices.

The congress concluded its work by electing the command bodies of the party in Syria. These are: The Central Committee, which elected comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad as its secretary general, and later elected the new Regional Command. The congress also elected the inspection and control committee.

The congress affirmed the need to abide by the directives contained in the two important speeches the comrade secretary general gave at the opening and concluding sessions. The congress also affirmed the need to apply these directives to practical behavior and to the continuing struggle to achieve the objectives of our Party and Arab nation for unity, freedom, and socialism.

Greetings to our great Party's strugglers throughout the struggle arenas against the Arab nation's enemies and in order to achieve its progressive, pan-Arab objectives. Greetings to our valiant Armed Forces that are defending the Arab nation's honor and dignity. Greetings to our steadfast people in the face of the most vicious forces of tyranny and aggression. Greetings to our Arab nation's masses and national, progressive forces who are facing the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary onslaught. Greetings to our pure martyrs, the most generous and noble people. Greetings to our kinfolk in the Golan, Palestine, and Lebanon, who are standing fast against the Israeli occupation. Greetings to the world's free men and strugglers who are fighting for progress, national independence, and just peace. Greetings to the friendly USSR, the champion of nations and peace struggler. Greetings to the leader of our people's march toward Liberation and victory, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Party and president of the republic.

[Signed] Damascus, 25 January 1985, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

People's Assembly To Discuss Al-Asad Nomination

JN251304 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Article 84 and the second article of the People's Assembly bylaws, People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi has issued decision No 19, dated 25 January 1985, according to which he summons the Assembly members to an extraordinary session that will begin at 1800 on Sunday, 27 January 1985. This session will be devoted to considering the proposal of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command on nominating comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the republic, for a new constitutional term to begin 13 March 1985.

Muslim Brotherhood Vanguard Abroad Pardoned

JN251631 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — A responsible Interior Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

Contacts have recently been held between us and the Muslim Brotherhood Vanguard Organization [Tanzim al-talifah] leadership abroad. During these contacts, this leadership expressed new convictions by its elements — convictions that are radically different from their previous convictions. We reviewed with them their past circumstances outside the country; circumstances that helped form these convictions. These convictions can be summed up by the fact that a plot is being concocted against Syria's steadfastness and firm, national stand, and that those trading in the name of religion whom they closely knew are implementing suspect schemes that will only reap disappointment and failure.

Those brothers expressed in their name and the name of many of the Muslim Brotherhood bases their desire to return to the homeland so that they can live in their country as faithful persons defending it and justly struggling with it against the wicked who are obsessed by inclinations for sabotage, treason, and crime and who set up alliances in order to serve their suspect schemes.

Proceeding from the state's care for its citizens' interest, out of its desire to remove the social repercussions inflicted on those citizens living abroad as a result of the sedition implemented by the Muslim Brotherhood and crushed by the people, and in view of the state of enlightenment attained by a large number of misled youths, it has been decided to allow all faithful youths to return to the homeland so that they can again place themselves in the service of their country and nation. It has also been decided to settle all the cases and problems resulting from their defection abroad. Some of these citizens have already returned and are living among us. The state did all that was appropriate so that they could resume their normal life among their brothers and kinfolk. They have also obtained a special pardon from President Hafiz al-Asad, relieving them of all that was entailed by their previous actions up to the moment of their return to the country.

This pardon will be applicable to everyone who returns to his homeland with an open heart, leaving behind all the criminal and

stupid ideas dictated to them by sick minds or stained hands that were accustomed to making gains at the expense of the victims' blood and the pains of the displaced, and renouncing that distorted mentality implanted by the Muslim Brotherhood leaders who — whether consciously or unconsciously — are implementing suspect schemes, the least of which is distorting the noble religion and inflicting harm on the Muslims.

We will receive with an open heart all those who are convinced that they were deceived or were implicated in actions that they do not, at present, believe and who have developed a national consciousness of the level reached by the Vanguard's leadership and elements, provided that their intentions are sincere and unblemished and that they wish to return to their homeland as

honorable citizens to defend its steadfast stands in the face of the defeatist, capitulatory trends that threaten the Arab region.

As a state responsible for its citizens, whether they are wrong or right, we recommend only one thing regarding this positive step; namely, that the intention should be sincere and the conviction both complete and unwavering out of our concern for the pledges made. As for the method to do so, the brothers abroad know it and can act according to the facts made clear to them. We hope that by doing so, we have opened the door for some of this homeland's citizens who used to live the delusions of others and can now return to a life of logic and wisdom.

Coverage of Talks With Egypt Over Tabah Issue

No Shamir, Peres Conflict

TA251322 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem-based political correspondent]

[Excerpt] There are no differences of opinion between the prime minister and the foreign minister concerning the Israeli position in the negotiations with Egypt on Tabah. This was said by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in reaction to a question. The two personages will meet in the next few days to discuss the position to be taken in these talks.

Breakthrough Not Expected

TA261950 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Israel may agree to stationing a small multinational unit in Tabah on the condition that it does not engage in operational duties, such as maintaining law and order on the site. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that Jerusalem does not expect a breakthrough in the talks on Tabah scheduled to begin tomorrow in Beersheba.

The members of the Israeli delegation to the talks held a preparatory talk yesterday with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The guidelines to the Israeli delegation note that the talks are scheduled to deal with technical questions related to the status of Tabah. If the Egyptians raise a demand to transfer the conflict over Tabah to international arbitration, the Israeli delegation will propose to set up a joint committee to discuss the matter.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, this evening expressed optimism regarding the success of the talks in Beersheba tomorrow. However, he went on to add that the stationing of a multinational force in Tabah would in no way solve the problem. He emphasized that Egypt insists that the dispute be settled through arbitration. Replying to a question by our correspondent Vitor Nahmias, Basyuni said that the Egyptian ambassador to Israel will not return to Tel Aviv before Egypt's three conditions have been fulfilled — the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon; the improvement of the quality of life in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza; and the solution of the Tabah question.

Talks Seen as 'Test'

TA270524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Delegations from Israel and Egypt, as well as observers from the United States, will hold 2 days of talks in Beersheba today on the introduction of an MFO unit into Tabah. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that in consultations held over the weekend between the prime minister and the foreign minister, it was decided that Israel will emphasize that the talks will focus on technical problems rather than on a permanent solution.

IDF sources have said that Egypt was responsible for changing the level of the talks, from the military level to the political level. Our military correspondent Shmuel Tal adds that in the talks, Israel will also raise the issue of the 19 people who have been missing since the Yom Kippur War, and will request that searches for the missing soldiers from the *Duqar* submarine continue.

Egyptian sources have told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that Cairo regards the Beersheba talks as a test for Shim'on Peres' capability to make good on his declarations regarding an improvement of ties between Israel and Egypt. Egypt maintains that Israel had violated the agreement signed during the evacuation of the Sinai by introducing security forces into the Tabah region, completing the construction of the hotel there, and allowing tourism in the area. The Egyptian delegation will demand that the Israeli security forces be removed from Tabah, and that the conflict be transferred to arbitration.

Opening Session of Begins

TA271546 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The Egyptian delegation came to Beersheba determined to improve relations between Israel and Egypt — this was stated by the head of the Egyptian delegation, 'Abd al Halim Badawi, in his opening speech. Badawi thanked Israel for the warm welcome and, referring to the question of Tabah, he said everything possible must be done to reach an agreement. However, he emphasized, any official presence of Israeli forces — even that of police forces — would be incompatible with the peace accords.

Israel hopes the dialogue begun in Beersheba today will open the way to more extensive contacts between Egypt and Israel on issues other than the question of Tabah — this was stated by Tzvi Qedar, the head of the Israeli delegation to the Beersheba talks, at the beginning of the session.

The Israeli and Egyptian delegations held the opening session of the present round of talks, to last 3 days, with the participation of the United States. The main issue on the agenda of the talks is the stationing of an MFO unit in Tabah and its responsibilities. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from the Desert Inn Hotel in Beersheba:

[Begin recording] for the first time in over a year, one could once again see the Israeli and Egyptian flags flying side by side at the entrance to the Desert Inn Hotel where the tripartite talks are being held. Placards in Arabic, Hebrew, and English welcomed the delegations, which arrived in limousines straight from Ben-Gurion Airport. There is no doubt that following the lengthy interval in the contacts between the two countries, the meeting in Beersheba is surrounded by a certain degree of emotion, although qualified and restrained at that. The delegates exchanged jokes and smiled before the television cameras of dozens of journalists who have arrived here to cover what may be the beginning of the thaw of peace between Egypt and Israel.

Despite the differences — known even before the delegates went into the underground, wood-paneled room — the delegates exuded optimism, each one for his own reasons. The Egyptians

want to create an atmosphere of warmth and progress to register good marks with the Americans, also a party to the dialogue. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that not even one Egyptian journalist has come here to cover the talks. The Israelis cling to any bit of goodwill on the part of Cairo to try to improve relations.

[Ex:] Qedar, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general and head of the Israeli delegation, heartily welcomed the Egyptians and the Americans in his opening speech. Qedar stated that Israel has come to the talks with good intentions, to make every possible effort to see a successful culmination of the dialogue. Israel will raise with the Egyptians a series of other issues unrelated to the dispute over Tabah. These will be technical as well as humanitarian issues, such as the searches for the bodies of 19 soldiers missing in the Sinai and the missing submarine *Duqar*, which are no less important to Israel.

The head of the Egyptian delegation, Ambassador Badawi, said he takes a positive view of the resumption of the talks and that there is goodwill on both sides to achieve good results. We should keep our minds open, Badawi said, adding that the Egyptians are determined to improve relations.

Discrepancies Evident in Stands

TA271825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Discrepancies between the Israeli and Egyptian stands on Tabah were already evident in their first session of negotiations. The opening session of the talks, which started at 1500, ended an hour before the specified time; the negotiations will resume tomorrow morning at 1000, an hour later than scheduled. Israeli and Egyptian sources explain the changes as the result of the need to formulate new ideas. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports from the Desert Inn Hotel in Beersheba:

[Begin recording] *[Barne'a:]* According to Israeli sources, in today's meeting the Egyptians did not raise the demand that the issue be brought to international arbitration. We posed this question to the head of the Egyptian delegation, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, who answered:

[Badawi — in English] I think, for the sake of the good results of the negotiations, not to divulge the contents of the negotiations that we carried out.

[Barne'a — translates the above and continues] What took place in the first meeting? In the first session Badawi said: We exchanged views, we will meet tomorrow at 1000 when we will be in a better position to give you more details.

Israeli sources say that Egypt did not raise the demand that the Tabah issue be brought to international arbitration. The most senior Egyptian representative at the talks does not deny this. We have learned that Israel, on its part, expressed a very clear stand at the opening of the discussions. Israel believes that the discussions in Beersheba should lead to interim arrangements which will provide for an invitation to the Multinational Force and a decision on its functions in the disputed area of Tabah. A final arrangement on the Tabah issue, according to Israel, must be

debated in another forum. The Egyptians do not agree with this, as we learned from discussions we had with delegation members and sources in Egypt the day before the opening of these talks. *[end recording]*

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT 27 January reports that "the Israeli-Egyptian talks on Tabah will resume in Beersheba tomorrow in the afternoon."]

Talks in Beersheba Resume

TA280821 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0817 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The second round of talks between Israel and Egypt began in Beersheba a short while ago. The head of the Egyptian delegation, Ambassador Badawi, arrived a little late for the beginning of the meeting. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck has learned from sources in the Israeli delegation that in today's talks the two delegations will present their countries' position papers on the introduction of the MFO into Tabah and the powers that will be granted to the MFO soldiers. For the time being, it seems there is no progress in the two parties' positions regarding the Israeli police presence in Tabah. Yesterday Egypt again rejected such a presence.

Compromise Security Proposal Raised

TA281035 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Tabah talks in Beersheba suggested a compromise regarding security arrangements in the Tabah area to the Egyptian representatives. According to this compromise, the security powers given to the MFO will be expanded, and at the same time the profile of the Israeli police presence in this area will be lowered. The Egyptians took a very sympathetic view of the proposal. The first meeting today will end in a short while. The parties will meet again at 1500 [1300 GMT] today. This was reported by our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck.

Objections Raised Over New Egyptian Border Controls

TA251354 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Manni]

[Text] For the last 2 weeks, Egypt has been preventing Palestinians holding Jordanian passports from using Israeli-Egyptian border crossing points. Israel has, in the last few days, demanded that Egypt explain the reasons for the new regulations, introduced without the agreement of Jerusalem.

The Egyptian decision mainly hurts Palestinian students from Judea and Samaria who carry Jordanian passports and seek to study in Egypt.

Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, was invited to the Israeli Foreign Ministry this week, where he was asked to explain the new regulation. Basyuni was told by Foreign Ministry officials that this constitutes a breach of the agreements [between the two countries].

Egypt 'Annoyed' by Hotel Lease

TA270801 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
27 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] Israeli and Egyptian delegations meet this morning in Beersheba to discuss the disputed Tabah zone south of Elat. Egypt has meanwhile voiced annoyance at the reports that the Israel Lands Administration has decided to grant a 49-year lease to the Rafi Nelson holiday site at Tabah. Egyptian diplomats in Elat and Tel Aviv told Israeli reporters that the lease is one of a long series of Israeli attempts to add faits accomplis to what they consider is the unlawful annexation of Tabah.

When Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a final consultation with the Israeli delegation members on Friday, about tactics for the Beersheba meetings, one of the participants said: "We need the Nelson lease revelations like we need a hole in the head!"

It was suggested that Egypt be assured that, since the Nelson holiday village was of long standing, from before the peace agreement, the lease contract did not constitute any change in the situation.

On Friday [Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad] Basyuni met Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' political adviser, Dr Nimrod Novik, to exchange views on the issues scheduled to come up in Beersheba, and incidentally to complain about the Nelson land lease. Nimrod will attend the Beersheba meetings as an observer on behalf of Peres. The official delegation is headed by Foreign Ministry officials and includes senior Defence Ministry personnel as well.

Foreign Ministry Lists Egyptian Violations

TA271201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] In a public appearance over the weekend, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir addressed Egypt's violations of the peace treaty and said, among other things, that maybe Israel should not have participated in the Cairo book fair, because the indignation Israel suffered there not only did not contribute to close ties between the two countries, but was actually counterproductive.

The Foreign Ministry has compiled a list of all the agreements signed between Israel and Egypt on the eve of the signing of the peace treaty, nearly 50 of them. They consist of traffic agreements, air traffic agreements, tourism and trade agreements, as well as communications agreements — on telephone lines that will be laid in the Sinai and link the two countries. There are even agreements involving the two broadcasting authorities of the two countries, as well as cultural agreements.

According to the Foreign Ministry specialists, when you glance at the list or examine them, it turns out that most of them are not being honored, and in many of the agreements, not one clause is being honored by the Egyptians. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to emphasize a number of subjects observed in Israeli-Egyptian relations, so that the picture does not appear so gloomy because the picture is indeed varied.

Israel and Egypt maintain diplomatic ties. Egypt has recalled its ambassador to Cairo, and the Egyptian representation is currently run by a charge d'affaires. The traffic agreements — involving air traffic, car and bus transportation, and permission for Israeli vessels to cross the Suez Canal — are being implemented.

The tourism agreements are being implemented only unilaterally, because the flow of tourism goes only one way — many Israelis visit Egypt, but Egyptians are not allowed to visit Israel, and any Egyptian who wants to visit Israel must obtain a police permit, and thus there are very few who do this.

Regarding communications, these agreements are not being honored. No telephone links between the two countries have been laid, and the agreements between the broadcasting authorities are not being fulfilled either. Many people in the Foreign Ministry say that the bilateral cultural and trade agreements are also totally ignored, a substantial matter.

Shamir Attacks Egypt, Praises Package Deal

TA251417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir attacked Egypt for not honoring many clauses of the peace treaty. First and foremost, he emphasized, the Egyptian ambassador has not been returned to Tel Aviv despite the government's decision on a phased withdrawal from Lebanon. Egypt continues to make the return of its ambassador conditional on a total withdrawal from Lebanon and on progress in solving the Palestinian problem.

The foreign minister added that none of the conditions Egypt has stipulated for improving relations is realistic, and they prove that Egypt does not want to develop a real peaceful relationship. Yitzhaq Shamir spoke at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

On another matter, Minister Yitzhaq Shamir praised the new package deal, saying that although it does not contain the solution to several important economic problems, such as unemployment, it paves the way to their solution.

It also blocks negative processes which in the past caused problems. Minister Shamir expressed hope that the parties to the agreement will uphold it, and that it will be a starting point for economic progress.

Regarding Minister Sharon's libel suit against *TIME* magazine, he said Ari'el Sharon succeeded in proving that the magazine lied, and this helps Israel's cause.

UN's Urquhart Withdrawal Coordination Efforts

UN Seeks Orderly Evacuation

TA251227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] Brian Urquhart, the UN under secretary general, landed in Lebanon a short while ago. He arrived there with a report on his meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the latter's office in Tel Aviv this morning. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] In the *gik*, the defense minister raised the possibility that a situation may be created in the course of the evacuation from Lebanon in which comprehensive security arrangements will be achieved. He reemphasized that the IDF will evacuate the Sidon area by 18 February at the latest, saying this is of concern to the United Nations as well as to Lebanon which will thus demonstrate its sovereignty. Brian Urquhart confirmed that the United Nations also has an interest in securing a process which will not involve renewed hostilities.

[Urquhart — in English] Our interest is in trying to facilitate a process which is orderly and in which there is not renewed trouble.

[Eshel] During the meeting, Rabin said that Israel will return to the international border, but emphasized that a withdrawal timetable has not been set because the unexpected, rather than the expected, is the rule in Lebanon. Brian Urquhart left for Lebanon to brief the Lebanese leaders about his talks here and to attempt to renew the talks. Upon his departure, he did not yet know whether or not he would succeed in this.

[Urquhart — in English followed by Eshel translation] I think we have to assume that Al-Naqurah is a framework which is useful when people need it, and that we regard it as a functional arrangement which we use when there is something to talk about. [end recording]

UNIFIL Prepares for Deployment

TA270525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart has instructed UNIFIL to prepare for a UN Headquarters order to deploy in the areas that will be evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon. This is reported by our correspondent in the north, Hayim Hecht. At the same time, Urquhart believes the order will only be given the moment the first stage of the Israeli withdrawal has been completed.

Urquhart: Lebanese Position Unchanged

TA270603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] There is no change in Lebanon's position about the Al-Naqurah talks, says UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart. He was reporting on his talks in Beirut to Foreign Ministry Director

General David Kimche. The Lebanese say they will not return to the negotiations unless Israel comes forward with a detailed timetable for a total evacuation of south Lebanon. Thus, despite Urquhart's efforts to keep the Al-Naqurah talks going as the only official diplomatic channel between Israel and Lebanon, Urquhart is expected to leave the area soon.

Urquhart Seeks French Deployment

TA271032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1019 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart left for Paris this morning in a bid to bring about some sort of settlement in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that he conferred last night with the French ambassador to Israel and tried to persuade him to have France deploy its units in the areas evacuated by the IDF in the Sidon area. Urquhart took this initiative once he learned that the Lebanese and the Syrians have no intention of approaching the UN Security Council, for the moment, to request UNIFIL's deployment in the areas that will be evacuated by the IDF. Our correspondent reports that Urquhart reported on this initiative of his to Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche.

No French Deployment Seen

TA281111 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] There is apparently no chance that France will accept the initiative of the UN secretary general to have it send its soldiers to southern Lebanon. Sources in Jerusalem yesterday expressed their belief that the move was initiated by the Christian community in Lebanon, which fears a massacre following the IDF evacuation of the coastal strip.

Sources in Jerusalem believe that the French Government is aware that its observers stand no chance of preventing bloodshed and that due to the complicated relations between the communities, and against the background of Syria's control over the Lebanese Government, its contribution to maintaining order in Lebanon would be nil.

Urquhart Relays Syrian Stand

TA280532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT
28 Jan 85

[Text] Syria wants to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from establishing a new infrastructure for his organization in the refugee camps in the Sidon area, and is therefore opposed to the stationing of a UN force in the region. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that UN envoy Brian Urquhart informed Jerusalem that Syria is even opposed to the stationing of individual UN observers in the Sidon area. It is afraid that under the UN cover, 'Arafat will manage to renew the terrorists' infrastructure in Sidon. Our correspondent says that in the coming days, the United Nations will try to convince France to station its soldiers on the coastal road, and it seems that the European

countries will also try to convince the Lebanese Government to ask the United Nations to station its soldiers in the IDF-vacated region.

IDF To Evacuate Equipment From Sidon 'This Week'

TA271607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] In the coming days, the Corps of Engineers will explode bunkers which previously belonged to the terrorists, will destroy strongholds, and will block connecting trenches in anticipation of the withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The IDF will not destroy the roads it paved in the area after the war. Our military correspondent Shmuel Tal says that the IDF will conclude the evacuation of equipment from the Al-Zahrani and the Sidon areas this week.

Peres: Al-Naqurah Talks Have Reached End

TA271845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the talks between Israel and Lebanon at Al-Naqurah have reached an end. Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin told reporters after today's Cabinet meeting that the prime minister had told the Cabinet the Al-Naqurah talks have apparently ended completely, because of the impossible demand of the Lebanese.

The Cabinet secretary said Peres was referring to Lebanon's insistence that Israel provide a detailed timetable for its complete withdrawal from Lebanon. Beilin said that the prime minister's remarks constituted his assessment of the situation and did not mean that Israel opposed a resumption of the talks.

Knesset Committee Tours South Lebanon

TA271901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Report from Lebanon by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] Members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today visited southern Lebanon. Their original purpose was to closely follow the first stages of the evacuation activities. However, the committee members mainly heard about the increasing spate of terrorist acts over the last few days.

The major general of the Northern Command and his officers said: "We indeed expected the decision to withdraw would generate increasing efforts by the terrorist organizations to attack us.

The major general said that the IDF is continuing its efforts to foil attacks. Tyre has lately become a center of terrorist activities. Committee member Victor Shemtov said that therefore Tyre also should be evacuated. Committee Member Refa'el Eytan, on the other hand, said that this is exactly why the IDF should maintain its presence in the Tyre area.

Coverage of Defense Minister Rabin's Visit to U.S.

Entourage Named

TA251318 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 12

[Excerpt] On the eve of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's trip to Washington, U.S. officials have, as usual, requested detailed information, including the names of those accompanying him. As on his previous visits to the United States, he will be accompanied by Defense Ministry Director General Menahem Meron, Military Secretary Brigadier General Dan Yatom, and Communication and Information Adviser Nahman Shay. This time, a new face will also be among his entourage — Adviser to the Minister Niva Lanir.

Rabin Describes Visit's Purpose

TA270552 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2135 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 26 Jan (ITIM) — Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night that he hopes the problem of the defense budget has been solved. He noted that the Defense Ministry is prepared to participate in the effort to heal the economy, and the defense budget will be the lowest in 11 years. He says this is a calculated risk, and will undoubtedly harm the level of security that could be provided. Mr Rabin was speaking to the ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure — on board a special military aircraft — to the United States, at the invitation of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. This is a visit to reciprocate Weinberger's visit here a few months ago. The main purpose of the visit is to discuss issues pertaining to the two defense ministries. Other problems will be broached during talks with Secretary of State George Shultz. Rabin will wind up his 8-day visit with a meeting with President Reagan.

In reply to a question, he said he hopes the Lebanese problem will not be the main topic for the talks. "Israel made its decision after efforts, made with U.S. help, to reach an arrangement failed because of Syria's hostile approach. Israel fully cooperated in these efforts," Rabin said. The defense minister noted that as an independent country, Israel was forced to take the steps that it deemed necessary.

Mr Rabin, accompanied by his wife and a limited team of aides, will return to Israel at the end of the week. His aides said he was departing on board an Air Force aircraft, and that he is also trying to do his part to save money.

Rabin Predeparture Interview

TA270748 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Jan 85

["Exclusive"] interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Gay Zohar at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to the minister's departure for the United States on 26 January — recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] We will discuss all current bilateral issues, in particular everything that has to do with the fabric of relations between the Israeli and U.S. defense establishments, against the

background of the general Middle East situation, or more specifically, the government's decision to redeploy the IDF in Lebanon. Naturally, we will also discuss Israel's economic problems, a dominant factor affecting both political moves, and the security situation, but first and foremost the defense budget.

[Zohar] With your permission, could you specifically address the issue of the Al-Naqurah talks? It is still questionable whether they will continue, and likewise whether contacts will continue with Lebanon on the agreement to transfer the area the IDF will evacuate on 18 February. Will Israel appeal to the United States with a request for any kind of initiative on its part?

[Rabin] No, we have no intention right now of approaching the United States with a request that it launch a new initiative regarding anything to do with the Cabinet's decision on the IDF redeployment. In effect, it appears that under heavy Syrian pressure, Lebanon cannot deal with any orderly transfer through the United Nations of the area we will evacuate on 18 February. They probably fear that the presence of UN forces in refugee camps, such as in Sidon and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, will constitute a cover for the return of pro-'Arafat PLO forces to those places, and the last thing they consequently want is for UNIFIL to be present there. We will carry out the Cabinet's resolutions, and I hope the Lebanese themselves will seek a direct way — even in undefined ways, even in de facto arrangements — that will still allow for the most orderly transfer of the area.

[Zohar] Another issue is economic or budgetary. It has been reported that the request for military aid submitted to Congress will stand at \$1.8 billion. What is your initial reaction to this?

[Rabin] I must say that my impression, even before arriving in the United States, is that the U.S. Government takes a very positive view of Israel's security needs, and sometimes — if I may say so — I wish certain people in the Israeli Government would take as positive a view of aid to Israel as the U.S. Administration, and would realize the need for bolstering our military prowess. My impression is that the United States is going to prove that despite its economic problems, and the Israeli economic difficulties notwithstanding, it will increase military aid to Israel.

[Zohar] Mr Rabin, do you have any good news about the defense budget? Has this issue been settled and finalized?

[Rabin] I hope so. From our viewpoint, too, it will be the lowest defense budget since 1974 — in other words, in the past 11 years. This decision, which the General Staff and the defense establishment are prepared to go through with, involves a security risk.

[Zohar] Your answer leads me to believe that the problems of financing the stay in Lebanon and the debts to the telephone company have been solved?

[Rabin] Last week we witnessed something which I regard as extremely serious, nearly unprecedented, in Israel. For reasons which I will not go into, reports have been spread that there is a danger that the supply of bread or other foodstuffs will be cut, and that telephone lines will be disconnected. I believe various elements — and primarily the Communications Ministry — have committed an unprecedented grave error by doing this, and this

is totally unjustified. Once the state budget is prepared, we will see that there is a special clause earmarked for payment of Communications Ministry services. It is true, I admit, that another [telephone] company has been established, and that as a result of this, the prices of telephone services for the defense establishment — which may have been subsidized before — will rise tremendously. But such things should be resolved in other ways, rather than by cutting defense establishment lines. I am glad that neither Tnuva [dairy product supplier] nor the bakeries have followed in the footsteps of the Communications Ministry.

Rabin Departs for U.S.

TA270546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The defense minister left for the United States last night to confer with his counterpart Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of State Shultz, and perhaps even with President Reagan. Yitzhaq Rabin will discuss the supply of U.S. arms to Arab countries, and will emphasize that Israel believes it is dangerous to provide Saudi Arabia with F-15 aircraft and Jordan with F-16's. He will also discuss strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States, military aid, the conversion of aid for the Lavi aircraft project, and Israeli military exports to the United States.

Discussions on Egypt, Aid Planned

TA280823 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] Washington — The Reagan administration is prepared to go a long way towards strengthening military and political ties with Israel, U.S. officials said yesterday shortly after Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived for three days of official talks in Washington. Israeli sources in Washington said last night that Rabin would seek assurances on the matter of proposed U.S.-Soviet talks on the Middle East. They said that Rabin would also discuss the current state of Israel-Egyptian ties.

Rabin, they said, will also be pressing for additional U.S. help in promoting Israeli defence exports to the Pentagon. Israel, for example, will be anxious to win new contracts for servicing U.S. fighter aircraft based in Europe and the Sixth Fleet in Israel.

The defence minister also wants the U.S. to continue a flexible "offset" policy for Israeli defence purchases in the U.S. over the years. Israel has been permitted to force U.S. defence contractors to buy a certain percentage of Israeli-made components for weapons systems sold to Israel. This has represented a significant advantage for the Israeli economy.

But now there is talk of dramatically curtailing this "offset" procedure — a development that would represent a major loss for Israel. Rabin also wants to make certain that the U.S. will continue to permit several hundred million dollars in annual U.S. military grants to be spent in Israel, as well as in the U.S. for the Lavi.

Military Industries To Sell U.S. Arms Components*TA280521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jan 85*

[Text] The Israeli Military Industries will sell the United States arms components worth \$50 million. The deal was concluded on the eve of the defense minister's visit to the United States.

Coverage of Package Deal, Other Economic Measures**Budget, Package Deal Approved***TA271401 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1535 GMT 27 Jan 85*

[Text] The Cabinet approved the framework for the state budget amounting to \$22,978,000,000. In addition, it approved the second package deal and the complementary legislation.

Moda'i on U.S. Criticism*TA252154 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1810 GMT 25 Jan 85*

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i by program moderator Shim'on Tessler and economic affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Tessler] Minister Moda'i, we have heard very strong criticism by your U.S. counterpart [allusion to Donald Regan's remarks that Israel is like a sick child who cannot be cured with candy but should instead be given real medicine]. Was this criticism expressed before or after he learned of the new package deal?

[Moda'i] I assume the criticism was leveled beforehand, although this move in itself will not change his opinion, because it is not enough to cure the sick child. The deal alone is just another piece of candy. It must be part of a comprehensive plan to fill the gap in the state budget, and the gap is large; the gap is the shekel equivalent of \$3 billion. We intend to fill it in the coming fiscal year. I know this is a tremendous undertaking, to try to fill such a gap in 1 year. It seems to me, however, that there is a very great awareness, and we have the ability to develop the tools required, such as control and enforcement means. In my opinion, the time is ripe.

[Tessler] Some ministers are not upset by such remarks, and they say we will always receive aid from the United States.

[Moda'i] No. I am sorry to say that we might need interim aid from the United States in any program we may develop, and definitely if we do not implement a drastic plan for the recovery of the economy.

[Plattner] The question is whether we will receive this aid in the situation we are in at present and given the steps we are currently taking.

[Moda'i] If we implement all the moves which I described, and close the whole gap in the state budget in the coming fiscal year and, in addition, protect our foreign currency reserves through

the means I mentioned — by administrative means which I spoke of — it seems to me we can expect interim aid if needed. Here I want to reiterate that the time factor is the most essential question for us. We have no more time to adopt other procedures.

[Tessler] I am not going to ask you for forecasts. However, there is an important subject we have not touched on, that of unemployment. At one time you proposed a 5-day week, which at this stage has not been approved.

[Moda'i] No, it still stands. I want to clarify and explain thoroughly: What lies before us in the public sector is either massive dismissals — I hope coupled with retraining programs — or shortening the work week together with a cut in wages....

[Plattner — interrupting] Why was this not included in the agreement signed yesterday? It seems you demanded this clause be incorporated.

[Moda'i] No, we never demanded that it be included in the agreement; we raised this point but never demanded that it be incorporated. One could not have expected this.

[Plattner] Is the Histadrut not aware of the situation?

[Moda'i] The Histadrut is aware of this situation, and fears massive unemployment no less than the Israeli Government, although it is the Israeli Government that is fully responsible for this matter and does not share this responsibility with anyone.

[Tessler] What type of unemployment do you anticipate at the end of the year?

[Moda'i] We do not anticipate more unemployment than that existing at present, except for various pockets of unemployment; I want to explain the reason for this. We are now making a simultaneous and coordinated effort to invest in creating jobs and, if possible, jobs which involve the production of export goods. Marginal unemployment will, of course increase, but under no circumstances beyond figures we cannot control.

At the point where unemployment affects a town — and such places exist — we will inject funds immediately into the area. In general, the Israeli economy is a small one. It is neither the United States of America nor the European Common Market. It can be dealt with on a localized basis. It is naturally not as small as the late Minister Pinhas Sapir [who allegedly conducted Israel's business as if it were a grocery store] thought, but it is a small economy. We have to deal with the large aspects and moves, then with the small moves, and through a combined effort it seems to me that we can cross this narrow bridge during the coming fiscal year, or perhaps a bit later. After this, I believe we will be on the road to prosperity.

Moda'i on Curbing Inflation*TA280700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Jan 85*

[Excerpt] After yesterday's Cabinet meeting which approved next year's \$23 billion framework budget, reporter Harley Braid-

man asked Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i whether new measures to restrict foreign currency allocation would go into effect within the next few days.

[Begin recording][Moda'i] Well, I don't know about the next few days, but one must understand that we will do everything in our power to protect the Israeli reserves in foreign currency.

[Unidentified correspondent] MR Moda'i, by how much will this budget bring down Israel's inflation?

[Moda'i] It is the combination of measures that we have taken that should bring down the rate of inflation — maybe not in the first or second month — but we look forward during the period of the agreement that we have reached with the other sectors in the Israeli economy, to eventually — at the end of the process — bring down the inflation to a low figure. What I am referring to is something between 4 and 6 percent, depending on future developments. But, compared with the rate of inflation that we have had in the past months, this should be considered a very important achievement. It is still not the end of the road. Still we'll have to work further in order to curtail the inflation — if possible, completely.

[Correspondent] What further measures will have to be taken? Are you satisfied by these cuts, for example?

[Moda'i] Yes, at this stage I think this was the art of the impossible. I think we should be satisfied with what we have achieved so far. Hopefully, it will contribute enough, with the other measures, towards bringing stability to the Israeli economy. [end recording]

Cabinet To Review Economy

TA280820 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
28 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] A marathon Cabinet session to review the entire economy and make decisions on reforming many issues, ranging from taxation to the employment structure, was suggested yesterday by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

The idea, voiced during the seven-hour Cabinet session, is "a follow up" to the Economic Stabilization Programme (second package deal) signed last Thursday, official sources said last night.

The sources said the idea envisages a "three-day Cabinet session," which would "pick up where the ESP left off to complete the economic plan." One source emphasized it was "premature" to predict how soon the marathon policymaking session would take place, explaining that "a lot of ground work has to be done before we can pull it off." Other sources confirmed that the idea has been talked about for some time. "It's not that we want such a meeting. It's that we need such a meeting," one source said.

According to Cabinet sources, the idea was "greeted positively" yesterday, although it was pointed out that "it is too early for

anybody to pull out ammunition either against the idea or to jockey for positions before the meeting."

Economic observers said they view the plan for the marathon session, as part of the government's efforts to present the U.S. with a credible overall economic policy.

Washington insists on such a programme before providing extra financial aid in the coming year.

Rosenne Sees Some Importance in Dobrynin Greeting

TA251238 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 14

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] In the brief conversation held between the Israeli and Soviet Ambassadors in Washington, no political issues pertaining to relations between the two countries were raised. This emerges from the message sent by Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne to Israel regarding this conversation.

In his message, Rosenne notes that his meeting with Anatoli Dobrynin — which was in the framework of a party celebrating President Reagan's inauguration — amounted to no more than an exchange of pleasantries. According to Ambassador Rosenne, the surrounding conditions — television cameras which filmed the meeting, and the presence of other diplomats and many and many guests — prevented them from discussing essential political matters. He noted, however, that Ambassador Dobrynin took the trouble to approach him in a demonstrative way, and this must be seen as some kind of signal on the part of the Soviet Union.

Reported Condition for Middle East Talks Cited

TA271113 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jan 85 p 3

["Exclusive" Report from Germany by Ze'ev Struminsky]

[Text] Rastede, West Germany — The Israeli Government is prepared to agree to the convening of an international conference on the Middle East issue, but makes its agreement conditional on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. This was apparently the official message conveyed by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Details on the issue were given by (Ulrich Tilgener), a member of the Greens delegation which toured the Middle East last month. (Tilgener) told the DAVAR correspondent that 'Arafat mentioned this message during a talk he held with the delegation members in Amman.

Israel's public position on the proposed international conference has so far been negative.

President Initiated Zairian Business Deal*TA251229 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 85 p 1*

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] The giant deal signed by Jewish businessman Leon Tamman with the Zairian Government — according to REUTERS it amounts to \$400 million — originated in an Israeli initiative. The investment will be made in the transportation and pharmaceutical fields for the years 1985 and 1986. In exchange, Zaire has agreed to give Tamman's group a 40 percent share in three government projects.

Political sources told the *DAVAR* correspondent that the initiative came from President Hayim Herzog following his visit to Zaire approximately 1 year ago.

President Herzog, who is distantly related to Leon Tamman, suggested that the Jewish multimillionaire organize a group of international investors to invest in the African country. The president's aim was to have Israeli companies join the project at a certain stage, and for this purpose a meeting was organized a few months ago on board Tamman's private yacht in the Port of Monte Carlo. Israeli businessmen participated in this meeting, among them representatives of Koor and Bank Leumi. To date, however, no Israeli entrepreneurs are involved in the project.

However, Tamman's investment in the Zairian capital of Kinshasa is considered an Israeli deal, and according to the REUTERS report from Kinshasa, he is described as an "Israeli businessman."

Political sources believe the deal will help Israel's image in Africa and will strengthen the impression in other countries that Israel has connections and influence with businessmen worldwide who might invest in countries in Africa.

Swaziland Wants To Strengthen Relations*TA280541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Jan 85*

[Text] Swaziland wants to strengthen cooperations with Israel. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that this is stated in a message conveyed by the Swaziland Foreign Ministry's director from the Swaziland foreign minister to his Israeli counterpart. Yitzhaq Shamir also raised the possibility of political cooperation; he emphasized the rapprochement between the African countries and Israel, and noted that a special place is reserved for Swaziland which never severed relations with Israel. The visitor said that although his country maintains good relations with its neighbor, South Africa, it wants to free itself of dependence on it and is seeking Israel's assistance to that end.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for European Meeting*TA271108 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0940 GMT 27 Jan 85*

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 27 Jan (ITIM) — A Knesset delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo departed this morning on an El Al plane to Paris, where they will partici-

pate in the European Council deliberations in Strasbourg to begin Monday.

Milo left together with Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor. They will be accompanied by MK Jacques Amir, who is already abroad.

The deputy foreign minister will return to Israel this Wednesday, but the other delegation members, participating in the European Council plenum deliberations as observers, will return early next week, since the deliberations will continue during the whole week.

Middle East matters are not expected to be a central topic for the plenary discussion.

HADASH Conference Convenes in Nazareth*TA261107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jan 85*

[Text] The National HADASH conference has opened in Nazareth. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that approximately 400 delegates are participating in the conference, and among other things they will discuss the platform consolidated by the leaders of HADASH and the strengthening of ties with other left-wing organizations.

Relations With U.S. Criticized*TA271117 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jan 85 p 2*

[Report by Muhammad Khalaylah]

[Text] The HADASH conference, the first since its establishment 8 years ago, held in Nazareth yesterday with the participation of about 380 delegates, has called on all those who agree with its platform to join the party and act within its framework "to intensify the struggle for peace, democracy, equal rights, and Israel's social progress."

The conference elected a 120-member council, two-thirds of whom are Arabs and one-third Jews. The conference also elected Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner head of the national council.

The HADASH conference condemned the national unity government for acting against the national interests of the Israeli people by tightening military relations with the United States.

In the social chapter of its resolution, the conference calls on the workers and inhabitants of poor neighborhoods to intensify the struggle against the government responsible for unemployment and price increases.

ALGERIA

Saudi Oil Minister Meets President, Briefs Press

LD251943 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] King Fahd's special envoy, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, was received by the head of state this afternoon. The Saudi oil minister handed a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from the Saudi sovereign. Welcomed upon his arrival by his Algerian counterpart, Belkacem Nabi, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said the message concerned the situation of the oil market and our efforts to protect the price of oil. It must be noted that the Saudi oil minister's visit takes place 3 days before the OPEC extraordinary council meeting in Geneva.

Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani spoke of the meeting to the press, recalling that the main point on the conference's program was the issue of differentials. Referring to the decision adopted at the last conference, Yamani termed it insufficient and said the gap between current prices is unchanged, thus maintaining the current reference price. The minister pointed out that the heavy crudes have been increased by 50 cents, and added that although there is no intention to raise this price further, prices for light crude may be adjusted. Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani stressed in conclusion that OPEC prices are currently higher than they were before the last conference.

Foreign Minister Receives SWAPO's Nujoma

LD272116 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
27 Jan 85

[Text] Dr Taleb Ibrahim has received Mr Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO. Their talks dealt mainly with the situation in southern Africa on the eve of the holding of the 43d session of the OAU Liberation Committee.

LIBYA

Reagan Comments on Libyan Support for Nicaragua

LD261522 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 26 Jan 85

["U.S. President Admits Jamahiriya's Support for the Nicaraguan Revolution" — JANA headline]

[Text] Washington, Jumada Awal 7, January 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American President Reagan admitted the active role the Jamahiriya and the progressive states which oppose imperialism play by confronting the hostile U.S. policy in Central America.

Reagan pointed out in a meeting with a Latin American parliamentary group which is on a visit to America, the support Jamahiriya gives to the revolution in Nicaragua, expressing his fears towards this support.

Reagan's announcements reflect his government's hostile intentions towards the free nations which refuse the American dom-

ination and also confirms that the U.S. is plotting to launch an open aggression on Nicaragua similar to that it launched on Grenada.

Chadian Security Council Complaint Condemned

LD271724 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli 27 Jan (JANA) — The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has condemned the fabricated claims made by the rebel clique in Ndjamenah about an alleged Libyan occupation of Chadian territories and the determination of this clique to lodge a complaint with the Security Council on this matter.

The statement issued by the committee today stated that following the affirmation of the isolation of the rebellious Hissein Habre on the African and international levels and following his firm denials of crimes of annihilation and liquidation against Chadian nationals in the south, and his rejection of all attempts at reconciliation and negotiations with the lawful government and every effort made by the OAU to resolve the Chadian problem, this rebel is seeking — through coordination with the American Administration and at its orders — to lodge a complaint with the Security Council against the Jamahiriya.

The statement stresses that this complaint is not based on any justifications other than the backing which the rebel Hissein Habre is receiving from American imperialism and its agents. Those who are following the deterioration of the situation in Ndjamenah and its eruption in southern Chad realize that the rebel Habre had been overtaken by events and is no longer in control of the situation in Chad. The lodging of his fabricated complaint with the Security Council is an American attempt to extricate him from his isolation with a view to coordinating anti-Jamahiriya plans.

The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has stressed that the attempts by the rebel Habre to lodge a complaint against the Jamahiriya took place in coordination with the American Government, which has in fact started to carry out the policies, which Reagan announced following his reelection, toward Chad and North Africa. This represents a naked attempt to internationalize the conflict in Chad.

MAURITANIA

Statement Issued on Libyans' Visit

LD251019 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT
24 Jan 85

[Text] A press statement released at the end of the Arab Libyan delegation's visit to the Republic of Mauritania recently affirmed the desire of the Jamahiriya and Mauritania to strengthen and develop relations of mutual cooperation in various fields for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples. The statement states that the Arab Libyan delegation was received by Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. The delegation conveyed

to him and to the fraternal Mauritanian people the salute of the brother leader of the revolution and of the Arab Libyan people.

The Arab Libyan delegation held talks with the Mauritanian side and conducted a complete review of mutual cooperation in the various fields and ways to strengthen and develop this cooperation and their fraternal bonds.

The Mauritanian side expressed its thanks to the Great Fatih Revolution for the valuable assistance it has provided to the Mauritanian people. They agreed that the 10th session of the Arab Libyan-Mauritanian joint committee for cooperation should be held as soon as possible.

MOROCCO

Mauritanian Minister Confirms Support for Maghreb *LD261236 Rabat MAP in English 1155 GMT 26 Jan 85*

[Text] Casablanca, Jan 26 (MAP) — Mauritanian minister of interior, Lieutenant-Colonel Djibril Ould 'Abdallah, arrived Friday evening in Casablanca with a message from Mauritanian president, Colonel Maayouia Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya to King Hassan II of Morocco.

In a statement he made upon arrival, Lieutenant-Colonel Ould 'Abdallah said "the new Mauritanian leadership believes that the Great Arab Maghreb is certainly the entity in which a small country like Mauritania would feel at home." This is why, he added, "we hold out our hand to our brothers in North Africa so that, together, we edify the Great Maghreb." "We believe," he went on, "that this (Maghreb) summit could be held and can do away with the existing conflicts."

Lieutenant-Colonel Ould 'Abdallah specified that his visit was part of "contacts that the new Mauritanian regime is seeking to establish with all its brothers in North Africa." He concluded by saying that during his visit, he will discuss "all problems directly concerning the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania."

SUDAN

President Addresses Omdurman Celebrations

JN261536 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Omdurman, 16 Jan (SUNA) — This morning President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri delivered a speech at a celebration held in the city of Omdurman, the country's national capital, on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Islamic state in Sudan.

After greeting the masses who gathered on this occasion, he said that the expression, there is no God but one god, has been very effective. He added that Mahdism's victories have been consistent with the people's heritage and that the leader of the revolution used to call for honesty, loyalty, and objectivity as well as for returning to religion and the right path. Therefore, Mahdism was the only way to achieve a balance between belief and

patriotism. Numayri added that the Mahdist revolution rejected the nationalism, regionalism, and partisanship that prevailed in the homeland and the Islamic world and called for returning to the genuine sources of Islam, the Koran and the Sunna, without considering the ideologies that had fragmented the Muslims.

The president pointed out that the victories Mahdism had achieved represented a reply to the Western colonialists throughout Sudan. He said that the French and Belgian colonialists were lying in wait southwest of Sudan, and the Italians in the east. He added that these victories sought to spread Islam, and that this was represented by the revolution's leader's messages to the leaders inside and outside Sudan. He said that these messages had called for divine guidance and solidarity to spread Islam on a large scale. The president said that the revolution's leader had sent messages to the Khedive in Egypt and to Al-Sanusi in Libya to explain the revolution's objectives and principles. He said that that was the clearest proof of the Islamic course.

The president said that Caliph 'Abdallah adopted the revolution's way to entrench its objectives and principles. He added that the Mahdist state would not have been defeated had there not been conflicts in the country at a time when the conspirators escalated their pressures. The president said that the Mahdist revolution had recorded honorable stands of national struggle in the battles of (Umm Dabikarat and Karari) against the occupation forces.

The president said that our celebrations of the Mahdist revolution as a symbol of patriotism and steadfastness in the face of the colonialist forces proves that all human efforts based on faith will achieve victory, that Islam is the divine guidance, that the Mahdist experience has proved that Islam is good for all ages, and that unity is the pillar of the Mahdist revolution.

The president added that the Mahdist revolution should be studied by our generation and our sons in schools, and said: We recommend that the first national uprisings and the history of Omdurman, the first Islamic capital, be studied because we believe that the Mahdist revolution is a great heritage for this nation and that the leaders of this revolution are an example for the homeland and the citizens.

Gambian President Holds Brief Talks in Khartoum

JN271443 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA) — Gambian President Dawda Jawara made a 45-minute stopover at Khartoum airport this morning. He had earlier left Saudi Arabia with his foreign minister.

The Gambian foreign minister explained that the talks with the Sudanese officials dealt with issues of mutual interest. The foreign minister expressed hope that these talks will strengthen the excellent relations between the two countries.

The Gambian foreign minister also said that Jawara's talks with the Islamic Good Offices Committee secretary, in his capacity as chairman of the committee, dealt with issues pertaining to the Islamic nation. He also said that Jawara will leave for Guinea-

Bissau to attend the meetings of a regional organization comprising a number of West African states.

The Gambian president was received and seen off at Khartoum airport by Baha' al-Din Idris, the president's assistant for presidential affairs; Hashim 'Utham, minister of foreign affairs; and Ibrahim Muhammad 'Ali, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Joint Trade Protocol With Egypt Signed

JN271213 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumadi Awwal 6/Jan 27 (SUNA) — Sudan and Egypt signed a trade protocol for 1985 here yesterday. The protocol was signed by Commerce, Industry and Cooperation Minister Fawzi Ibrahim Wasfi for the Sudan and his Egyptian counterpart Mustafa Kamal al-Sa'id for his country.

A joint communique issued after the conclusion of the meetings of the Sudanese-Egyptian joint trade commission, held here January 21-26, said the two sides had worked toward removing difficulties hampering development of commercial exchange between the Sudan and Egypt. The communique said the protocol caters for continuation of exchange of specific commodities whose values are to be paid in currencies of account. It also arranges conclusion of equitable deals in hard currencies.

The communique said each party agreed to secure other party's requirements from supply commodities, raw materials and other materials necessary for industry and agriculture.

Libyan Opposition Radio Attacks Al-Qadhdhafi Policies

EA261643 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] In its broadcast yesterday morning, Radio Voice of the Libyan People, mouthpiece of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, accused Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of damaging the reputation of Arabs in Africa by interfering in the affairs of African countries. This has led some African countries to change their position toward Israel. Some of these states have resumed relations with the Israeli enemy and others have asked for Israeli aid to face Al-Qadhdhafi's threat, while a number of African heads of state have paid visits to Israel.

The radio said that Al-Qadhdhafi's invasion and occupation of Chadian territory affected and damaged the Arab reputation in Africa, since his conspiracies and crimes in Chad have undermined African support for the struggle of the Arab nation and brought about discord between Arabs in the north of the continent and Africans in the south, leading to a change of attitude of a number of African countries.

Khartoum University Professors Denounce Regime

AB251235 Lagos NAN in English 1210 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 25 (IPS/NAN) — Professors and lecturers at Khartoum University have denounced President Numayri's

regime and described it as one of anarchy, tyranny, repression and bloodshedding, a statement in Khartoum said yesterday.

In a widely circulated statement, they said that such a regime, after violating the constitution of the country, was resorting to the last means of repression and terrorism. At a time when the situation is deteriorating in the Sudan, the execution of Mahmud Taha comes as a harbinger of evil, it said. [passage indistinct]

SPLA Radio: Building of Jonglei Canal Opposed

EA251854 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] A feature on the Jonglei Canal. Jonglei Canal is one of the economic things which remain to be developed in southern Sudan. This canal was planned in 1905 when Sudan was still under the Anglo-Egyptian rule. But after the independence all the governments which preceded Numayri failed to bring about its implementation. However, it was unfortunate for the Sudanese people in general and southerners in particular that the work on the Jonglei Canal project was undertaken by Numayri's corrupt government. It was also unfortunate that the Egyptian Government became much more instrumental in the implementation of the digging of the Jonglei Canal. Precisely, the Egyptian Government is an equal partner with Sudan Government in this operation.

In this connection we are going to consider some historical perspective about Sudanese-Egyptian relations. We shall consider the reasons why southerners have continued to object to the digging of Jonglei Canal.

Beginning with the Sudanese-Egyptian relations, it is quite explicit in the history of Sudan that such relations were strongly based on colonization and exploitation during the pre-independence period. In the post-independence period these relations tended to be built within the framework of subordination and subjugation of the Sudanese people.

In clear terms the relations between Egypt and Sudan before and after independence had specifically been geared to plunder the Sudanese wealth. It is equally true that the Sudanese human resources were subject to plunder in the form of slavery which was quite spread all over the Sudan with the southern part of the country bearing most of the burden. This arrangement was undertaken by Egyptians and was facilitated through collaboration with reactionary in Sudan [as heard].

Undoubtedly there were Egyptians who forcefully entered the Sudanese territory with the help of their firearms. Anyway Al-Mahdi the British-Turco-Egyptian invaders and drove them out of the country in 1885. [sentence as heard] However, it was only a matter of few years when Egyptians re-entered Sudan after having allied themselves with the British against the Sudanese people in 1896. This is a brief account which points to Egyptian interests in Sudan.

As far as the Jonglei project is concerned we are quite convinced that the digging of Jonglei Canal which has taken several lives of students and detention of many others during their peaceful

protest in 1974 was only done for the benefit of the Egyptians. Of course there was no reciprocal arrangement undertaken to safeguard and protect the lives of the local population bordering the canal and their animal resources. In fact the intention was to make lives difficult for the local people of the area and perhaps try to remove them out of their land as it was the case with the Nubians of old Halfa whose land has been turned into a lake to provide much more water for Egyptians and other necessities as well.

The digging of Jonglei Canal reminds us that nobody cares about the effects to be created by this operation on the local population. This is a sell-out effected by Khartoum clique regime just to remain in power. Because of this we reject the continuation of operations to dig the Jonglei Canal in this very moment. We must first need scientific studies to be carried out and provide us with necessary findings with regard to advantages and limitations of digging the canal. We will therefore allow the digging of the canal when the findings indicate that the Sudanese people would benefit out of the Jonglei Canal project.

If the regime in Khartoum is only but a puppet of foreign governments, then we are not in a position to sell out the Sudanese sovereignty and integrity of our land as Numayri is now doing. The building of the Jonglei Canal must stop, and we are capable to do that as long as its digging benefits only the Egyptians and allow the Sudanese to perish. That was a feature on the Jonglei project.

SPLA Announces Release of Foreign Hostages

E 4271439 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1330 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] We have just received the following from a spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] High Command:

In a statement to Radio SPLA a spokesman for the SPLA High Command said that the chairman of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and C-in-C of the SPLA, Col John Garang de Mabior, has ordered the release of the four Compagnie des Constructions Internationales, the CCI, employees, who were taken hostage by the SPLA Jamus Battalion in February 1984 when the SPLA stormed and captured the CCI headquarters at the Sobat Marsh.

The SPLA High Command dropped its demands and resolved to release the four hostages on humanitarian grounds, especially in response to the many moving letters of appeal by the families, wives, daughters, sons, family members and other relatives of the hostages that were made to the C-in-C of the SPLA and the chairman of the SPLM over the past 11 months the hostages have been in the custody of the SPLA.

It is to be recalled that in November 1983 the SPLA had taken hostage nine other CCI workers and warned the company to stop work on the Jonglei Canal and to vacate the area. These nine hostages were released after 3 days. The aim of their capture was to provide a dramatic warning to the CCI since written warnings had failed to convince the CCI. However, despite the capture of

their workers and the good gesture of their release after only three days, the CCI continued to give aid to the government regime by allowing the use of its aircraft for spying on the positions of the SPLA and its vehicles to transport military equipment and the regime's troops.

Three months after this dramatic warning, the C-in-C ordered Jamus Battalion under the command of Lt Col Carabino Kuan-yin Bol to storm the CCI headquarters and take hostage any workers, which was done. It was stormed and destroyed and six hostages were captured. Subsequently the SPLA released two of the hostages, the pregnant Mrs Gwynne Morson and her 18-month-old son only, purely on humanitarian grounds, leaving behind the four we are releasing today, 27 January 1985.

It is also to be recalled that last May the SPLA rescued two German volunteer workers who were caught in crossfire in Bahr al-Ghazal and escorted them to safety where they were released. Radio SPLA will bring you a full text of the statement on the release of the CCI hostages tomorrow.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Receives Senegalese Muslim Leader

LD262225 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 26 Jan (TAP) — Yesterday Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi received Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, head of the Niasse Muslim community in Senegal and President Abdou Diouf's envoy.

During their conversation Mr Niasse conveyed to Beji Caid Essebsi a written message from the Senegalese president to President Habib Bourguiba. During the talks they also discussed the relations of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Senegal and ways to strengthen them further.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Maghreb Summit

LD261943 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1741 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 26 Jan (KUNA) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi confirmed here today "the presence of positive indications regarding the holding of Maghreb summit meeting to include the leaders of Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania" and also stressed "Tunisia's non-opposition to the Libyan regime."

Mr Caid Essebsi, on the instructions of the Tunisian president, recently carried out a tour of Mauritania, Algeria, Morocco and Libya, where he solicited the views of their leaders on the possibility of holding a Maghreb summit in Tunis between the second half of February and the beginning of March.

Replying to a question from KUNA about his impressions of the tour, Mr Essebsi said "these contacts are nothing abnormal because we all belong to the Great Arab Maghreb, and Tunisia has distinguished relations with all the countries of the region. Perhaps our contacts, especially during these circumstances, have special importance because of the stage through which the

region is passing, particularly as public opinion might occasionally hear of tense relations or a conflict among the region's countries. I think it is the duty of every country of the region, especially any country that maintains open and distinguished dialogue channels with all the countries of the region — and by this I mean Tunisia — to establish reconciliation and understanding and bring everybody to dialogue, because this is the best way."

He added: "This is what we did during our tour. I think that the results of the visits were positive. In the relations between the countries of the regions, we can now see an existing exchange of views between Morocco and Algeria, between Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriya and between Algeria and Mauritania, and God willing we will soon see a dialogue between Mauritania and Morocco."

The Tunisian foreign minister said: "The results which stemmed from the Maghreb tour are important and prove that the leaders of the Great Arab Maghreb are dealing from a standpoint of responsibility and are willing to use dialogue to overcome some of the current problems."

Mr Caid Essebsi met with Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi for about 75 minutes during his tour, after which the Tunisian foreign minister returned to his country. Asked about "the brevity of his visit to Libya due to the rumored lack of amicability between himself and Col al-Qadhafi," Mr Caid Essebsi said: "This is completely untrue. My visit to Libya lasted as long as my visit to Algeria. Naturally this is due to the shortness of the distance between Tunisia and these two fraternal countries." He added: "In addition to this, I talked to Brother Mu'ammarr for an hour and a quarter and we reviewed a good number of issues."

Replying to another question about whether the talks included the subject of the Tunisian opposition, resident in Libya, and the Libyan opposition, resident in Tunisia, the Tunisian foreign minister said: "Naturally our talks included this subject, but

I would like to stress here that there is no Libyan opposition in Tunisia."

Asked about the expulsion of the Libyan opposition from Tunisian territories, Mr Caid Essebsi said: "All bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed during the meetings of the joint supreme cooperation committee, and you can go back to the joint statement which was issued at the end of the meetings to know the answer." This joint statement was void of any reference to the opposition in both countries and was restricted to the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements between them in the fields of youth, sports, foreign trade and customs.

The *KULL AL-'ARAB* magazine, published in Paris, said in its 23 January issue that President Francois Mitterrand said to Col al-Qadhafi during their recent meeting in the Greek island of Crete: "Let us agree on Chad and I will leave Tunisia to you."

Asked whether his government has asked for an explanation from its French counterpart concerning what was attributed to President Mitterrand, Mr Caid Essebsi said: "First, with respect to the magazine you mentioned, I say that it is not authorized to speak officially in the name of President Mitterrand. Therefore, there is no need to ask the French Government for the explanation you are talking about."

WESTERN SAHARA

Moroccan Plane Shot Down 21 Jan in Dakhla Area
LD252259 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] Western Sahara — A Moroccan plane of the type OV-10 was shot down on 21 January by the Saharan [word indistinct] in the area of Dakhla. The communique from the Saharan Information Ministry which announces the news, speaks of a series of operations against Moroccan positions. The toll is 184 monarchist soldiers killed.

KENYA

Border Officials Sign Agreement With Uganda*EA271445 Nairobi KNA in English 0732 GMT 27 Jan 85*

[Excerpts] Eldoret, Jan 27 — Senior border peace committee officials from Kenya and Uganda have signed an agreement to intensify cooperation between the two countries and to continue holding regular meetings to uphold peace and stability along the common border.

In an official announcement at the conclusion of the 2-day fifth Kenya-Uganda joint border peace talks, made yesterday in Eldoret, the senior officials resolved to hold regular meetings to review and implement agreements on the two countries' cooperation for the maintenance of security along the border. The officials, who comprised a Kenyan delegation led by the Rift Valley Provincial Commissioner, Mr Hezekiah Oyugi, and the Ugandan delegation led by Mr K. Nyakime, also noted with satisfaction that such meetings helped in the exchange of views on security along the common border and in addition improved and promoted the two countries' relations.

The discussions further recorded other aspects of cooperation for the development of the residents living along the border and unanimously agreed to maintain the Arusha Accord while increasing cooperation on security matters so as to root out crime and human and livestock diseases which affected the two countries. They agreed to make efforts to settle nomads living along the common border and to curb illegal entry into and out of neighboring states.

The meeting agreed to meet in Uganda later this year when Uganda will host the sixth Kenya-Uganda joint border meeting.

SOMALIA

Italian Parliamentary Delegation Visits*AU181528 Rome ANSA in English 1518 GMT 18 Jan 85*

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, January 18 — A delegation of Italian deputies led by Aldo Aniasi has made a trip to Somalia to learn something more first hand about the economic and social life of that country.

The trip was envisioned after a group of Somali parliamentarians met in Rome last fall with House Speaker Nilde Iotti and her aides.

The Italians visited refugee camps in Ogaden, toured the University of Mogadishu and various schools, the village of "Duca Degli Abruzzi", orphanages, and state farms under Italo-Somali administration.

Their fact-finding mission enabled the delegation to take account of the gravity of the problems afflicting Somalia

The group also met with Head-of-State Siad Barre who underscored the ancient and recent friendship between the two countries and the political and cultural reasons spurring Somalia to strengthen its ties with Italy.

For his part, Aniasi confirmed Italy's wish for closer cooperation with Somalia in its civic, economic and social development.

TANZANIA

Briefs

Transport Agreement With Uganda — Dar es Salaam

Tanzania and Uganda have signed a bilateral rail and steamer services agreement. It was signed by senior officials of the two countries' railways corporations after a week of talks in Dar es Salaam. The agreement will be forwarded to the leaders of the two sides for such further scrutiny as may be required. During their talks, the railway officials expressed the hope that Uganda would use the southern route to transport coffee, tea, and cotton, and would import commodities such as flour, sugar, and salt through Dar es Salaam. The officials said that Tanzania Railway Corp.'s MV Umoja and Uganda's MV (Kaawa) and MV Kabarega would be used on Lake Victoria. During the talks, which started on 17 January, the two sides also discussed a variety of technical and customs duty issues, including joint inspection of border areas. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0700 GMT 25 Jan 85 E 4]

Cholera Deaths — Mwanza: Cholera is reported to have hit Ukerewe District in Mwanza region, again causing five deaths, while six people are still receiving treatment at health centers in the district. A statement released by the regional medical officer, Dr Mtei, said that the disease struck again on 18 January. However, he said that the disease was on the decline in Mwanza region and that the situation was not serious. The regional medical officer accompanied by the nursing officer will leave Mwanza for Ukerewe today, with medicine and other equipment for combating the disease and to investigate the causes of the disease. Dr Mtei has called on the citizens of Ukerewe to stop keeping disease a secret, and to take their sick to hospitals when they detect symptoms of the disease. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 23 Jan 85 E 4] Lindi:

The office of the regional commissioner in Lindi rushed an emergency shipment of drugs and diesel with doctors to Kilwa District to assist the district to combat cholera, which has claimed the lives of 10 out of 17 people affected in (Kinyanywa-Kipatimu). According to a police signal received in Lindi from leaders of the district, the victims died between Wednesday and Thursday this week. The regional media office told the regional anti-cholera committee that three people died of dysentery in Lindi last Sunday. This is the first official announcement of the disease since it hit the region towards the end of last year. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 26 Jan 85 E 4]

BURUNDI

President Bagaza Meets With Rwandan Counterpart

*EA251559 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Text] The president of the Republic, General Juvenal Habyarimana this morning left for the Republic of Burundi for talks with his Burundi counterpart and brother, Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

The two heads of state met this morning to finalize matters concerning problems of the movement of people and goods between the two countries under conditions that are conducive to security. President Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart will discuss other issues of common interest.

Joint Communiqué Signed

*EA261639 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT
26 Jan 85*

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic, General Habyarimana, yesterday made a brief visit to Ngozi, Republic of Burundi, where he held talks with his Burundi counterpart, Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. This visit was within the framework of the existing good relations of friendship, cooperation, and good-neighborliness between our two countries.

Following this visit to Burundi by the head of state, the two heads of state signed a joint communiqué, which was released yesterday, and in which they expressed their satisfaction with the results of their talks, which focused on bilateral and other issues. The joint communiqué expressed the two heads of states' determination to work persistently to consolidate the relations of friendship, solidarity, and good-neighborliness that exist between our two countries, and their commitment to promoting bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of politics and security, economy, trade, technology, science, social affairs, and culture.

On these bases they agreed on the following: to continue the working sessions of the joint technical commission on the demarcation and [word indistinct] between our common border; to quickly implement the general agreement on cooperation signed at yesterday's meeting in Ngozi between the two heads of state, after the meeting of the first session of the two countries enlarged joint cooperation commission; to open negotiations on the occasion of the first session of the enlarged joint cooperation commission with a view to signing an agreement on industrial integration and high quality agricultural seeds, strengthen the complementarity [complementarite] of the two countries' economy [word indistinct] and facilitate the regional economic integration; and, finally, to sign an agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation with a view to intensifying the exchange of lecturers, students, technicians, and experience in the fields of economic and cultural development and intellectual activity.

CHAD

Government Lodges Complaint Against Libya at UN

*AB271110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT
26 Jan 85*

[Excerpts] Libya continues its aggression and its illegal occupation of Chad. Testimony obtained from several escapees from prisons in Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti and information supplied by the masses who have fled from the occupied zones sufficiently prove this. The Chadian Government, which has never ceased to denounce this inadmissible (?perversity), is determined to do everything possible for our country to recover its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The government of El Hadj Hissein Habre, which will never bow to Libya, has initiated moves aimed at finding a peaceful solution to this problem — attempts at direct negotiations with Libya, proposals for national reconciliation, and explanations of the military situation to the national and international communities. It has done everything possible to achieve national unity, but Al-Qadhafi persists. As aware as he is, the colonel with a bad international reputation [words indistinct]. That is why Al-Qadhafi does everything to keep Chad in a state of permanent occupation, as a first step toward total annexation.

Faithful to their objective of national salvation, the authorities of the Third Republic have once again decided to resolve the issue at an international level. Chad has, in fact, asked for a meeting of the UN Security Council by lodging a complaint against Libya. The news was announced in New York yesterday by the Chadian charge d'affaires to the United Nations, Ngare Kessely, in a letter addressed to the chairman of the UN Security Council and the French ambassador to the United Nations. The charge d'affaires explained in the letter that Libya continues to interfere [words indistinct] in the internal affairs of Chad and it continues to illegally occupy (?564,000 square km) of our territory in violation of the OAU and UN Charters. In the same letter, the charge d'affaires disclosed that the Libyan Government took another step in this escalation by organizing a plot against the Chadian head of state, El Hadj Hissein Habre, and members of his government. This attempt was fortunately foiled.

The charge d'affaires' letter has been confirmed by the Chadian foreign minister in a press communiqué which was submitted to the editorial staff and which I will read to you word for word.

In the face of the escalation of Libyan maneuvers against Chad and the multiple and sophisticated forms these maneuvers are taking, the Chadian Government has lodged a complaint against Libya at the UN Security Council. In addition to occupying the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti area, Libya now seeks to physically eliminate President Hissein Habre and members of the Chadian Government through a plot.

This is the fourth time that Chad has lodged a complaint with this body. A complaint lodged in 1983 resulted in declaration No 55756686 in which the members of the Security Council called on Chad and Libya to meet and discuss the issue and to resolve it in a peaceful way. Unconcerned about this declaration, the

regime of Colonel al-Qadhafi relentlessly strengthens its occupation of (7564,000 square km) of Chadian territory [words indistinct] in order to extend its influence throughout the country. The colonel of Tripoli has since last year added terrorism to the [word indistinct] and massive war.

The hand of Al-Qadhafi was formally identified in March 1984 in the fire that broke out aboard a UTA aircraft. He then ordered his men to assassinate the Chadian president by a [words indistinct] the cabinet meeting. The attempt was foiled and investigations carried out in the most discreet manner clearly attributed responsibility to Col al-Qadhafi.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Lassou Gouara, therefore leaves Ndjamen today, Saturday, 26 January 1985, for New York, where he will report to the Security Council on the (?activities) of the Libyan colonel. He is accompanied on this trip by the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, (Doukem Trouba), and the director of documentation and security, [name indistinct].

GUNT Reveals Assassination Attempt Against Habre

AB281707 Paris AFP in French 1618 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Brussels, 28 Jan (AFP) — An assassination attempt was made on Chadian President Hissein Habre in Ndjamen about 3 weeks ago, according to a communique issued on Monday in Brussels by the "Transitional National Union Government" (GUNT).

According to this communique, signed by the GUNT representative in Europe, Issaka Ramat Almhamdou, this assassination attempt is said to be "the sole handiwork of the very entourage" of Mr Habre. The communique states that it was "a suicide commando" comprising elements of the Kreda ethnic group (in the region of Kk Kk Kkkanem) who are members of Mr Habre's bodyguards and who thus tried to organize "a sort of palace revolution" that "the Ndjamen authorities somehow tried to hide from international opinion."

The GUNT communique presented this information "as a clarification" and gave the impression that the news was already known in some circles.

GABON

Agreement With France on Reduction of Experts

AB250910 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The third session of the Gabon-France ad hoc committee took place on Wednesday in Libreville. Gabonese and French experts came to an agreement on the gradual reduction of the number of French technical assistants in Gabon. The agreement stipulates, among other things, that (780) posts will be withdrawn in 1985 and (?100) more in 1986.

ZAIRE

Number of MPR Central Committee Members Reduced

AB281200 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1130 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Jan (AZAP) — By Ordinance No 85-048, signed in January 1985, the MPR founding chairman has decided to reduce the number of members of the MPR Central Committee from 125 to 80. Among the 80 members, 2 are newcomers to this orientation and decisionmaking organ of the party. They are General Bangala, chancellor of the companions of the revolution and of the national orders, and General Eluki Monga Aundu, general chief of staff of the Zairian Armed Forces. Forty-seven members are leaving the Central Committee. They include, in alphabetical order:

1) Citizen Assumani Bagbeni Usu; 2) Citizen Bashali Mukoto Nyanguba; 3) Citizen Bilambo Kalonda; 4) Citizen Bosunga Loombe Ifindi; 5) Citizen Diawaku Dia Nseyila; 6) Citizen Duga Kugbe Toro; 7) Citizen Dzbo Kalogi; 8) Citizen Ekila Liyonda; 9) Gakodi a Gikalumuga; 10) Giriki Safari; 11) Ilunga Dibwe Luakamanyabo; 12) Kabeya Nkashama; 13) Kabongo Kongo Kola; 14) Kabundi wa Malenga; 15) Kafitwe wa Pabowa; 16) Kanza Ndolomongo; 17) Kanza Lunsila Nlemvo; 18) Kazadi Nduba wa Dile; 19) Kimvay Mibenga; 20) Lengelo Muyangandu; 21) Lolo Lyambe Bosengi; 22) Lofoli Lobanga; 23) Luhahi a Niama Luhahi

24) Luntandila Ndala Zafua; 25) Mabika Kalanda; 26) Makinda Wata Wata; 27) Mamboleo Mughuba; 28) Mbenga Sandongo; 29) Mohunza Mushoshore; 30) Mononi Auka Ngongo; 31) Mozagba Ngbuka; 32) Mpia Liombo Ipaki; 33) Mulamba Nyunyu wa Kadima; 34) Munabe Kambala Kamuyaya; 35) Mutatch Kayombo; 36) Eyl Mwenda Munongo Msiri; 37) Mwenenge Afamasa; 38) Ndaye Mukumbi; 39) Ndjadi Kumba; 40) Nsona Kukabusi; 41) Ntika e Ibole Muludiki; 42) Nyimi Kwete Mbokashanga; 43) Sakombi Ekope; 44) Sakombi Inongo; 45) Sampassa Kaweta Milombe; 46) Takizala Luyan Muis Mbingin; 47) Tshibambe Kabanba Loba.

This is the new composition of the Central Committee:

Ordinance No. 85-048 of 28 January 1985 concerning the composition of the MPR Central Committee.

The MPR founding chairman and president, considering the Constitution, especially Articles 36, 45, and 61, decrees:

Article 1: The following are named members of the MPR Central Committee: 1) Citizen Apindia Monga Mapindia; 2) Citizen Bandle Atundu; 3) Citizen Bangala Ottowangama; 4) Bapa-Banze Mudiangombe; 5) Birere Mabano Mufungizi; 6) Bo-Boliko Lokonga Monse Mihomo; 7) Bolya Ifekwa Lobok'ete; 8) Bomboko Lokumba Is'elenge; 9) Derikoye Tita Avungara; 10) Diona Mbitima; 11) Citizen Drabua Tanzi; 12) Elebe Ma Ekongo; 13) Elongo Alimasi; 14) Eluki Monga Aundu; 15) Engulu Baanga Mpongo Bakokele Lokanga; 16) Epee Gambwa; 17) Gambembo Fumu wa Utadi; 18) Inonga Lokongo L'ome; 19) Issia Amundala.

20) Kabodi wa Kabodi; 21) Kadima Tshovo; 22) Kakule Mbahungana; 23) Kalala Hunga; 24) Kalala Kizito; 25) Kalondji Ditunga; 26) Kalondji Mutambay; 27) Kamanda wa Kamanda; 28) Kande Djambulare; 29) Kangafu Vingi Gudumbangana; 30) Citizen Kankolongo wa Bondo; 31) Kankolongo Ndaye; 32) Kasa Yubu Krata Zabu; 33) Kasongo Mukundji; 34) Kengo wa Dongo; 35) Kikotwa Tumbwe Amani; 36) Kishiba Kasangula Nkeke; 37) Kithima Hin Ramazani; 38) Kiriwa Tumansi Benga Tundu; 39) Kombo Ntunga Boko.

40) Kongolo Badiambe; 41) Lessendjina Kiaba Lema; 42) Lubamba Lumbu; 43) Imabi Mulumba; 44) Mafuta Kizola; 45) Maratcho Mudjo; 46) Mata'a Nkumu wa Bowango; 47) Matumbu Monga Ya Nzuu; 48) Mayuma Kala; 49) Mboso Nkodia Pwanga; 50) Mbundi Mulol; 51) Mbungu Bayanama Kadivioki; 52) Milambu Katambwe Kiyoyo; 53) Mpanu-Mpanu Bihanda; 54) Mpose Nselenge Mpeti; 55) Mpinga Kasenda; 56) Muhunga Mwami Ngana; 57) Mulongo Misha Kabange; 58) Munga wa Nyasa; 59) Ndolela Siki Konde.

60) Ndudi-Ndudi Yi Buloko; 61) Nendaka Bika; 62) Nguvulu Lubundi; 63) Nguya Ndila Malengana; 64) N'sengi Biembe Eputa Bongoye; 65) Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube; 66) Nyembo Mwana Ngongo; 67) Nyoka Busu Noengo; 68) Nzanda Buana Kalembe; 69) Nzuzi wa Mbombo; 70) Omotua Kube; 71) Rwakabuba Shinga; 72) Sesanga Dja Kasiu; 73) Shabani wa Kalenga; 74) Singa Boyenge Mosambay; 75) Tshibwabwa Ashila Pashi; 76) Umba Di Lutete; 77) Vunduawe Te Pemako; 78) Wembi Kakese; 79) Weregemere Bingwa; 80) Yoka Mangono.

Article 2: All previous arrangements contrary to the present ordinance, which comes into force on the date it is signed, are abrogated.

Issued in Kinshasa on 28 January 1985.

[signed] Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga

BURKINA

Two Ministers Leave for Moscow on Working Visit

*AB260852 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 26 Jan 85*

[Text] Mr Youssouf Ouedraogo, the minister of planning and development, and Mr Alain Koeffe, the minister of commerce and supply, left Ouagadougou late Friday morning for Moscow. They are paying a working visit to the Soviet Union within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Burkina and the Soviet Union.

GHANA

CDR Official Receives U.S. Ambassador, UK Officials

*AB252147 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Text] The political counselor for the economic development of CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], Lieutenant Colonel Asase, has explained that the defense committees have been reorganized under the CDR concept to ensure harmony in workplaces and maximize productivity. Speaking to the U.S. ambassador, Mr Robert Fritts, during a courtesy call on him in Accra, Col Asase said the political orientation of the CDR's will help eliminate any sort of confrontation between them and management. He said the CDR's will work in consultation with chiefs in the rural areas so as to get maximum benefit from the operation. Col Asase said they will also work with the staff of the national mobilization committee when necessary to increase output.

Mr Fritts praised the government for the efficient handling of relief aid to the country last year.

Two officials of the British High Commission, who later called on Col Asase, were told that emphasis will be placed on raising national consciousness and civic responsibility. Col Asase said that the functions of the CDR's will be based on suggestions from the people.

Joint Mining Operation With Libya in Bibiani Reported

*AB270935 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
27 Jan 85*

[From the press review]

[Text] A new mining company, Ghana-Libya Mining Company, is currently operating at Bibiani in the Sehwi District of the Western Region. This is a front page story carried by the *GRAPHIC*. It said an agreement to this effect has already been signed with the State Gold Mining Corporation.

Under the agreement, the company has been granted rights to undertake surface mining only at Bibiani. This was made known by Mr Yaadom Boakye, a lands officer, at a meeting with the

Sehwi Anhwiaso Omanhere [paramount chief], Nana Kwakye Sena, and the Nkowiashene [chief of Nkowi]. Nana Twum Berima Apaw, to discuss issues relating to the revival of mining activities at Bibiani.

IVORY COAST

Cameroon's President Biya Visits Abidjan

*AB252033 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Text] Today is the third day of the Cameroonian president's visit to the Ivory Coast. He made a trip to Abidjan this morning, coming from Yamoussoukro. President Biya was welcomed on arrival by Emmanuel Dioulo, the mayor of Abidjan. Mr Biya, who visited the various areas of the city, also met the Cameroonian nationals living in the Ivory Coast. He left late this afternoon for Yamoussoukro, where he will hold another round of talks with President Houphouet-Boigny before leaving for Yaounde tomorrow.

NIGERIA

Bulgarian Prime Minister Makes Official Visit

Welcomed by Idiagbon

*AB251926 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Text] The Bulgarian prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov, arrived in Lagos today to begin a 3-day official visit to the country. He was received on arrival by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, the Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Dimitur Vulev, service chiefs, members of the diplomatic corps, and top government functionaries. During his stay in the country, Mr Filipov is expected to hold bilateral talks with government officials. Tomorrow, the Bulgarian prime minister will pay a courtesy call on the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. Before leaving the country on Sunday, Mr Filipov is expected to sign a joint communique between Nigeria and his country.

There are over 800 Nigerians studying in Bulgaria in the fields of medicine, agriculture, engineering, and architecture. A federal report said the national theatre in Iganmu, Lagos, Murtala Muhammad Square in Kaduna, and the Ilorin sport stadium were built by Bulgarian firms.

Meets With Buhari

*AB271120 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
27 Jan 85*

[Text] Bulgarian firms operating in Nigeria have been commended for perseverance both in good and hard times. The commendation was made in Lagos yesterday by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, while exchanging views with the visiting Bulgarian prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov, who called on him. Gen Buhari expressed the hope that current

discussions between Nigeria and Bulgaria will open more areas of cooperation. The head of state noted that Bulgaria and Nigeria had identical views on southern Africa and the Middle East.

Replying, Mr Filipov commended the efforts so far made by the Federal Government to revive the country's economy. He called for the cooperation of the two countries in the areas of agriculture, small-scale industries, and other areas of trade.

Meanwhile, the visiting Bulgarian prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov, leaves Lagos today at the end of his official visit to the country. Yesterday, Nigerian and Bulgarian delegations held talks on bilateral issues. The Nigerian delegation to the talks was led by the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, while the Bulgarian team was headed by the country's prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov.

At the opening session, Major General Idiagbon said that the visit of the prime minister to Nigeria would further strengthen the already cordial relations between the two countries. He said that Bulgaria shared identical views with Nigeria on the issue of world peace. The chief of staff expressed the determination of the present administration to build a virile economy with emphasis on agricultural development.

In an address, the Bulgarian prime minister thanked the Federal Military Government for the warm reception accorded him and members of his entourage. He expressed the hope that the talks between the two countries would be in the overall interest of the peoples of Nigeria and Bulgaria. Mr Filipov expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the Federal Government and its efforts to revamp the economy and establish a new sense of nationalism. He said that Bulgaria was ready to share her experience in the industrial, agricultural, and technological fields with Nigeria.

Communique Issued, Filipov Departs

*AB280755 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
28 Jan 85*

[Text] Nigeria and Bulgaria have expressed the need for the strengthening of bilateral relations between them. This is contained in a communique issued in Lagos yesterday at the end of talks between leaders of the two countries. It stressed the need for a Nigeria-Bulgaria joint commission to continue to play an active role in the coordination of economic relations. The leaders also expressed satisfaction with the present level of cooperation between the two countries. They emphasized the need for increased exchange of visits at ministerial levels to enhance the ('good gains) already made in areas of mutual cooperation.

Meanwhile, the credit agreement between Nigeria and Bulgaria has been described as an instrument to facilitate the setting up of development projects. The observation was made by the Bulgarian prime minister, Mr Grisha Filipov, who has since left Lagos after a 3-day visit to Nigeria. The agreement, he said, conformed with international practice and represented one of his country's contributions to the economic development of Nigeria.

Lagos on 'Growing Cordial Relations' With Bulgaria

*AB261230 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT
26 Jan 85*

[Station commentary]

[Text] For the second time within 12 months, an official delegation from Bulgaria is visiting Nigeria. Last July a Bulgarian delegation was in Nigeria as part of a tour of eight African countries. This time that country's prime minister, Grisha Filipov, is in Nigeria at the invitation of the Federal Military Government [FMG]. His visit to Nigeria, particularly at this time, is an evidence of the growing cordial relations between Bulgaria and Nigeria.

The visible products of the relations between the two countries include the construction of the cultural edifice, the National Arts Theater in Lagos, the sports complex at Ilorin, and an electrification project in Kano. Perhaps by far the most important phase of the relations between the two countries is the current involvement of Bulgaria in the agricultural program of the FMG, which Nigeria ranks as topmost in the priority of her economic development program.

Mr Filipov's visit is mainly aimed at further strengthening economic, technical, and cultural ties between the two countries. Bulgaria began to take more active interest in Nigeria's agricultural program as far back as 1981, when it decided to invest in different sectors of agricultural production in Ondo, Bauchi, Kaduna, and Niger States. By 1982, the technical cooperation between the two countries had blossomed so much that more than 800 Nigerian students were then training in Bulgaria. Earlier, in September 1980, a Nigerian parliamentary delegation visited Bulgaria at the invitation of that country's National Assembly, and only last October, Nigeria and Bulgaria agreed to intensify their joint activities in all areas of priority to the Nigerian economy. The agreement, which was reached during the third session of the two countries' joint commission, showed that these areas of priority include agriculture and water, designing and construction works, commerce and industry, as well as tourism.

There is no doubt that the existing projects under the cooperation agreement between the two countries will be reexamined and reviewed where necessary in line with the mood of the Nigerian economy during exchanges between the Bulgarian delegation and the Nigerian officials. Happily enough, Bulgaria appreciates the current economic situation of Nigeria and government efforts to revamp it. One way the government hopes to achieve this is by diversification of the economy through increased agricultural production. As a country with rich experience and also a country that has gone through similar situations as Nigeria, we are optimistic that Bulgaria will share the result of its experiences with Nigeria, particularly on how to maintain a balance between agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

Buhari Address Launches International Youth Year
AB260859 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
 26 Jan 85

[Text] The Federal Government has adopted a national youth policy. The policy covers such vital areas as education, employment, and the introduction of schemes to stimulate the enthusiasm and energy of young people. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made this known in Lagos today in a broadcast to the nation on the occasion of the launching of the International Youth Year. He said that the policy would aid the maturity of youths through competition in adventures [as heard], cultural, and practical activities. Maj Gen Buhari pointed out that the National Youth Service Corps scheme and the War Against Indiscipline Brigade would also assist in youth development. The head of state appealed Nigerian youths whose acts of indiscipline brought shame and anxiety to their families and the nation to resolve to reform their ways this international youth year. He stressed that there was no pride in being involved in armed robbery and such other criminal acts as drug addiction, drug trafficking, smuggling, and cheating at examinations.

Gen Buhari noted that there were many opportunities for the youth to participate in the development efforts of the nation. These include community development, self-help projects, and the rehabilitation of disabled persons. Gen Buhari restated that the government was taking steps to create more employment opportunities by promoting small-scale enterprises in both the agricultural and industrial sectors. He gave an assurance that the report of the committee on gainful employment was receiving due consideration. It is expected that the decisions of government on the report will provide useful ideas for tackling the problem of unemployment. The head of state enjoined Nigerian youths to rededicate themselves to the objectives of the International Youth Year.

Government Asks Britain for Extradition of Dikko
AB260850 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, Jan 26 (AFP) — Nigeria has asked for the extradition [words indistinct] Umaru Dikko, an official spokesman said here Friday. He said the request had been made this week, but gave no details. The British High Commission had no comment.

Last June, Mr Dikko was found drugged in a crate marked "diplomatic baggage" at a north London airport, about to be loaded on a Nigeria Airways plane bound for Lagos.

The military government here wants to try Mr Dikko on corruption charges. He fled the country shortly after the coup which toppled his brother-in-law, President Shehu Shagari, on New Year's Eve 1983. The military regime has denied any involvement in the attempted kidnapping, for which a Nigerian and some Israelis are to stand trial in England next month.

Mr Dikko's British residence permit expired last month and he has asked for political asylum.

Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Ministerial Talks
AB271145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
 27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Nigeria is participating in the OPEC Ministerial Committee meeting scheduled for today in Geneva, Switzerland. The minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, has left Lagos for Geneva to attend the conference. The committee is expected to consider the report of the technical session which ended in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last Monday. The report was drafted by the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

SAO TOME & PRINCEPE

Defense Minister Makes Official Visit to Portugal

For Paris AFP reportage on the visit to Portugal by Defense Minister Oscar do Sacramento de Souza, including his meeting with Portuguese Defense Minister Carlos Mota Pinto, see the Portugal section of the 28 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SIERRA LEONE

Stevens: Choice of President Up To Central Committee
AB270820 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Freetown, Jan 27 (AFP) — President Siaka Stevens told a district convention of the ruling All People's Congress at Pujehun Saturday that the succession to the presidency in Sierra Leone was the "sole prerogative" of the Central Committee of the party and "is not a decision which is taken personally by the incumbent." He dispelled rumours about imminent retirements in the party's hierarchy including that of First Vice-President Sorie Koroma, who, foreign news reports have said, has been given up to march to retire [as received].

President Stevens' term of office expires in June. "The decision whether I shall remain in office or take the exit depends on the choice of the Central Committee," he declared.

The Pujehun convention is seen as the start of a series of mini-conventions to be held in other parts of the country which will climax with the 9th National Delegates Conference to be held here April 11-14. Pujehun, 192 miles (307km) from here, was the scene of violent political clashes early last year between rival candidates in which many people lost their lives and some 2,000 people crossed into neighbouring Liberia requesting refugee status. Second Vice-President Francis Minah is one of the parliamentary representatives of the area.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Messages From Egypt, Hungary
MB271000 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT
 27 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday received in Luanda a personal message from Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian head of state. Ahmad Nabil al-Salawi, the Egyptian ambassador accredited to Angola, delivered the message to the Angolan president.

The Angolan head of state yesterday also received in audience Andras Gulyas, the Hungarian ambassador to Angola. The Hungarian diplomat handed to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos an invitation from Janos Kadar, first secretary, of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], to participate in the 10th MSZMP congress, to be held from 25 to 28 March.

BOTSWANA

Government, PRC Confirm Identical Namibian Stances
MB280653 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT
 27 Jan 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, has said that the Governments of Botswana and China have an equally principled stand on the question of Namibian independence. She was speaking last night in Gaborone at a reception marking 10 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

She said racial segregation and the denial to millions of people of southern Africa their basic human rights forces Botswana to live under a threat of racial explosion. Dr Chiepe said the political situation in the region represents a challenge to Botswana and China, which believe in human equality and the right of people to self-determination. She said the two countries believe that the UN Resolution 435 is the only way to Namibian independence and reject foreign issues to be linked to the independence of the territory. South Africa rules under an expired UN mandate.

The Chinese ambassador to Botswana, Mr Lu Defang, said the friendly relations and cooperation between the two states in the political, economic, and cultural fields have steadily strengthened and developed.

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo Central Committee Member 'Assassinated'
MB251354 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT
 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Frelimo Party Central Committee has announced the assassination of its member Assumane N'taula. The assassination took place in Niassa Province, in yet another criminal action carried out by the armed bandits.

In a communique published by the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, the Frelimo Party Central Committee states that the murder of Assumane N'taula, 62, took place in Mavago district on 22 January.

In the same communique, the Frelimo Party Central Committee underlines the qualities shown by Assumane N'taula during the struggle for national liberation and after the proclamation of independence.

In expressing the grief and condolences of the militants of the party and the Mozambican people as a whole, the Central Committee also expresses the belief that the example set by Comrade Assumane N'taula will strengthen and inspire the younger generations, the communique reads.

MNR Cites Frelimo Split Over Nkomati Accord
MB280823 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
 28 Jan 85 p 9

[By MAIL correspondent]

[Text] Lisbon — South Africa's historic Nkomati peace agreement with Mozambique's Frelimo government is on the rocks and is also the cause of a major rift in Maputo's ruling party, it has been claimed in the Portuguese capital. This assessment of developments in Mozambique 10 months after the signing of the Nkomati Accord was given by Mr Jorge Correia, the Lisbon-based representative of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] rebel movement.

Mr Correia's views are shared in part by independent African observers and diplomats in Lisbon.

Two important developments last week seemed to confirm the thesis.

First came the unprecedented pleading tone in which South Africa's state president, Mr P.W. Botha, called on the rebels to end their fight. His message came as Pretoria prepared for more talks aimed at persuading MNR and Frelimo to agree on ceasefire conditions.

Then came an announcement in Maputo by Mr Frank Wisner, US assistant under-secretary of state for African affairs. Mr Wisner said Washington was to ship "non-lethal" aid to the Mozambican regime.

A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs said at the weekend: "The situation is too delicate to be discussed at this moment."

In Lisbon these events are seen as a desperate Western effort to prop up Mr Machel and to safeguard Pretoria's wide strategy for ending tensions with its neighbors.

Mr Correia, who returned recently from talks with guerrilla leader Mr Alfonso Dhlakama inside Mozambique, said there was a growing conviction among the rebels that Frelimo would soon face a serious split.

"The anniversary on March 16 of the Nkomati Accord will be the crucial moment. Machel will be obliged to assess the benefits of the deal and if he does not renounce it he could find himself with a military uprising on his hands," Mr Correia said.

"Radicals say Nkomati has only produced benefits for South Africa and that Mozambique has lost faith in the rest of Africa."

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Address Opening Parliament Session
MB251130 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
 0900 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Address by President P.W. Botha at opening of second session of the eighth Parliament in the House of Assembly, Cape Town — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, members of the House of Assembly, members of the House of Representatives, members of the House of Delegates: [changes to Afrikaans] On 15 May this year the original part of the parliament building will be exactly a century old. In many respects, this building symbolizes the process of the political development of our fatherland. This building has undergone many changes during its existence. It first served the Cape parliament, then the union parliament, and at present it is the seat of the Republic's government. Our parliamentary structure has also changed along with it. During the process of liberation from colonialism, representative government developed to responsible government, and a colonial independent state became an independent state and, finally, a free republic. At present, work is being done to this building again, to make provision for a system to accommodate South Africa's individual and unique circumstances.

For the first time in the history of our country, more communities are being directly represented in this parliament and in the government. In so doing, the democratic basis of our system has been irrevocably changed. Thus, it has been accepted that one part of our population cannot strive by itself for the goals of South Africa, and cannot on its own defend our common fatherland against threats. All the communities, all reasonable South Africans, will have to stand together if we want to lead our country to peace, security, and development.

[Changes to English] The Republic of South Africa has never been isolated from the outside world. Many of our forebearers were brought together here from several continents, and our history has been insolubly linked with the history of the world. South Africa is no island, and she wants to take her place in the community of nations, and in particular on the continent of which she forms part, while preserving the rich traditions and cultural heritage of all our population groups.

In taking decisions in the interests of our country, the government must have regard for the fact that circumstances and even events

in the rest of the world have a definite influence on our country and our subcontinent. It is our responsibility to take cognizance of the implications of the view of both friendly and hostile countries, to take into account the effect of our decisions on the Republic of South Africa's foreign relations. Indeed, our goal is to extend these relations. The interests of South Africa demand no less.

But South Africa's situation between two oceans does not mean that it is a country adrift. Openness to the outside world does not signify a lack of will. Let there be no misunderstanding, therefore, about the government's ability and determination not to let the rest of the world prescribe to it, not through diplomatic channels, nor through demonstrations, nor through any form of violence.

The government will not let itself be forced off course by the erratic and irrational behavior of the United Nations. Rather than contributing to the attempts to destroy civilized standards in South Africa, that body would be well advised to concern itself with the real problems of the world today, such as the East-West conflict, military expansionism, and famine. When we take decisions on cooperation with neighboring states, on steps to promote the constitutional development of the black community and on internal security, everyone must know that we are doing so in the interest of our country and not to please the outside world.

But, naturally, if what we do is favorably received, this would be to the benefit of our country and its people. I am therefore asking for support of this parliament in dealing with South Africa's foreign relations in such a way as to safeguard the integrity and security of our country and to give expression to our national goals as set out in the preamble of our Constitution. We are committed to cooperative coexistence, and we believe that this ideal can be achieved only if the diversity of our society is recognized and it is accepted that the composition of our country's population need not be an obstacle in our way.

But this is possible only in a system in which there is no domination of one population group over another, which in turn requires self-determination for each group over its own affairs and joint responsibility for and cooperation on common interests. Any further constitutional development will take place in accordance with this guideline. This does not by any means imply that our strategies and methods will not keep pace with changed circumstances and needs and with the rightful expectations of all groups. What it does mean is that the government will not deviate from these clear principles.

In accordance with these principles, the government has been engaged for some years now in a program of fundamental reform in every sphere of South Africa's life. Reform, and specifically constitutional reform, is a continuing process. There is already considerable cause for thankfulness and pride, but because the process is an evolutionary one, its effects — no matter how profound they may be — are not always so dramatically obvious.

[Changes to Afrikaans] As far as South Africa's position in southern Africa is concerned, international cooperation on matters of common interest has been the chief method of promoting peace and progress in the subcontinent. During the past year,

significant progress has been made as regards the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei and self-governing states, as well as other neighboring states. The government will continue to promote the possibilities of cooperative coexistence and mutual economic progress.

In the process, the acceptance of South Africa by its neighbors, and also elsewhere, as an integral part of Africa and as a dependable and stable partner has already begun to become apparent. The results of this for future relations with the states of Africa hold out positive possibilities. In the constitutional sphere, a new era has been entered, in which a final break has been made with the colonial past, which for so many decades characterized this subcontinent and which was responsible for so many limitations in political participation.

The new constitutional dispensation has become possible thanks to the untiring work toward the creation of the administrative bodies responsible for own affairs in each of the houses of Parliament. Insofar as the other levels of authority are concerned, a new dispensation is already being implemented systematically in order to give expression to all communities at that level in the decisionmaking processes affecting them. It has also been decided to integrate black local authorities with the council of coordination of local authority affairs, and with the regional service councils, whose activities will concern the daily lives of every South African.

The unrest in black urban areas cannot be ignored. But it must be emphasized that action will be taken against those who promote violence and lawlessness. There is strong evidence that the overwhelming majority of the residents of those areas support the government's actions in maintaining order, as well as the actions taken against the criminal and violent elements which prevent improvements in the quality of life and participation in political processes.

At the same time, the government admits that bottlenecks exist which lead to frustration among black communities. Urgent attention is being given to the elimination of these bottlenecks in order to create new prospects for all. No responsible South African will lose sight of the fact that the security of our fatherland in the final analysis depends on the preparedness of all our people to accept the commonality of interests and goals, despite significant diversity.

Education is the key to better living conditions for all. Consequently, the government places a high premium on improving education, aimed at working towards equal education opportunities for all communities in South Africa. The new Central Department of National Education is responsible for common general policy and standards regarding education for all population groups. New structures have been created for the black communities to implement better communications between students, teachers, parents, community leaders, and the education authorities.

However, improving living conditions for our people demands a healthy and vital economy. Without a strong economy, the country's security cannot be guaranteed, nor can the necessary reform in the political and social spheres be brought about.

Despite the relatively high economic growth of last year, there exists at present some concern — sometimes unjustified — about the economic situation and the economic prospects for both the short and long term.

[Changes to English] South Africa passed through two economic phases during 1984. Despite the decline in the gold price and the continuing drought, the economy expanded considerably during the first half of that year. In fact, this upswing was so vigorous that it led to an excessive increase in total spending, and therefore contributed to inflation and temporary balance of payment problems. To correct this, the authorities introduced restrictive measures which succeeded in effectively curbing total spending and substantially improving the balance of payments.

As part of this process of adjustment, the economy entered a temporary downturn in the business cycle during the second half of 1984. But for the year as a whole, real economic growth took place at the unexpectedly high rate of 4 percent, as opposed to a negative growth rate of 3 percent in 1983. Largely as a result of factors beyond our control, South Africa is at present less well off in several respects than a year or two ago, particularly in terms of buying power abroad. Every South African is affected by this. This requires certain adjustments from both the public sector and individuals and organizations in the private sector, adjustments aimed at ensuring that we all live within our means. Instead of giving rise to pessimism, this should be an incentive to us to make the necessary corrections and take up the challenge. The phases in the adjustment in the economy are a normal economic phenomenon and provide breathing space for foreign reserves to be built up and for the other problems that exert upward pressure on prices and costs to be eased.

The present circumstances provide an ideal opportunity for our export community to exploit the advantages of the low rand/dollar value to the full by operating more aggressively on the export markets so as to gain a larger share of the world market. This will help to reduce underutilized production capacity, and so cut the unit cost of production. This will not only make an important contribution to the fight against inflation, but economic activities can also be stimulated considerably and unemployment curbed.

The government attaches great value to an export-led recovery, and therefore wants to encourage the private sector to make use of the large variety of export promotion services offered by the authorities. Initiatives have already been taken in this regard in cooperation with the organizations concerned in the private sector, and more information on this and on ways in which individual companies can make a contribution will be released shortly.

[Changes to Afrikaans] As far as agriculture is concerned, I am only too painfully aware of the very difficult circumstances under which many members of the farming community have operated during the past 2 or 3 years. Often this was due to factors beyond their control and beyond the control of the state. This includes serious drought conditions, especially in certain summer rainfall areas, as well as the increase in input costs in agriculture as a result of internal inflation and the influence of the strong dollar, the exchange rate of the rand, and other monetary units. Good rains have recently brought new hope in many parts, but it must

be realized that real recovery in some areas will be a long-term process.

In the past year, massive amounts have been allocated in an attempt to stabilize agriculture and further substantial aid will have to be provided this year. Research is being focused on the promotion of agricultural production, and this includes formulating a national grazing strategy for optimum grazing. Agriculture is also being helped by the introduction of programs aimed at relieving cyclic unemployment. Since 1983, 50,000 unemployed have already been given employment, and these programs will be continued.

Economically, the coming year can expect a further improvement in the balance of payments. Unless the U.S. dollar continues to appreciate in terms of other monetary units, the rand should strengthen during the course of 1985.

In the short term, it is clear that the rate of inflation will maintain a temporary increase and that general economic activities will continue to slow down, but in time the beneficial results of the present strategy will have to come to the fore in full, in the form of lower inflation and higher real economic growth rate. The government is therefore determined to persevere with this strategy, and this approach will find expression in the budget that will be introduced in March.

It is expected that the (De Kock) Commission investigating monetary policy will shortly deliver its final report and to the extent of its recommendations to the government, important financial reforms and a new bank and building society act will be introduced during the present parliamentary session. Likewise, the (Margo) Commission is already busy with a review of the tax structure in its entirety, and it will give special attention to important aspects. It is expected that the commission will complete its work in 1986. Therefore the emphasis in the adaptation process thus far has fallen on monetary policy.

The government will apply a strict fiscal discipline as evidenced by the recent announcement that there will be no general salary increases for the broader government service during the 1985-86 budget year due to the present economic climate. In addition, it has been decided to curtail spending in the public sector with an emphasis on increasing productivity. It will be expected that employers and employees in the private sector will conduct their salary negotiations with responsibility.

The reduction of state spending cannot be done on a proportionate basis, but must take into consideration the country's priorities based on its development needs, its sociopolitical circumstances, and the security threat we face. We must pay urgent attention to national priorities. Preliminary priority guidelines have been laid down, and these guidelines will be further refined by means of a national economic strategy which is already, via the Economic Advisory Council, being further developed in close cooperation with the private sector. In this process the government will not hesitate to curtail certain services which are not productive, even stop or hand them over to the private sector.

It is the government's determined policy to foster private initiative and effective competition.

While education and training has an important role to play in reducing inequality among competitors in the market, the state has an important function to play in reacting strongly when and if the interests of certain groups are threatened by the disruptive actions of others.

[Changes to English] In the constitutional field, I want to stress that the government is resolved to pursue peaceful and democratic solutions that satisfy the requirements of fairness and justice. The government's general constitutional goal is, while maintaining security, stability, and self-determination for each group, to give all the country's people a say in decisionmaking that affects their interests. This applies to all the population communities of South Africa.

Indeed, the reason why the special cabinet committee was appointed was to make recommendations after investigation and negotiation on the way in which this goal can be given practical expression in the form of constitutional structures involving the black communities.

It remains the government's point of departure that because of the diversity of South African society, it is neither desirable nor practicable to accommodate all communities in the same way. Different structures by no means imply that the right of black people to take part in democratic processes is not recognized, nor will the structures set up for them be inferior or less effective. Against this background, the special cabinet committee has negotiated over a wide front with leaders of various communities. Although the committee's work is by no means done, real progress was made during these discussions with regard to a comprehensive range of matters affecting the lives of the black communities. I consider it necessary to inform Parliament about this progress and about the prospects for the future.

In the first place, it became clear from the negotiations that the improvement of the everyday circumstances of black communities could be effectively promoted by giving searching attention to attitudes and relations in their daily human context. Directives are therefore going out to all departments and other government bodies concerned with functions relating to blacks in the socioeconomic sphere to submit programs for the improvement of attitudes in the performance of their functions and for the elimination of problems identified in their respective fields. In addition, all government bodies must ensure that black communities are involved in decision-making that affects them in the socioeconomic sphere. This must take place through mechanisms or liaison specially designed for this purpose through their participation in investigations affecting their position, and through their appointment to statutory and other bodies.

The following problems have already received special attention. Urgent and convincing representations have been received from various quarters that it should be made possible for members of the black community to qualify for 99-year lease-hold rights to obtain full individual property rights in those areas where they qualify for lease-hold rights. As far as fixed property is concerned, there is a mistaken belief in certain circles in South Africa that the acquisition of rights to land leads to the acquisition of residential and political rights. In fact, residential and

political rights are regulated by other measures than those relating to land rights. This applies to all population groups.

The government has already accepted that members of black communities that satisfy certain requirements can obtain lease of rights without this implying political rights. A change in the way in which these rights are exercised, that is whether as lease-hold rights or as rights of ownership, has no implications at all for the content of the existing residential and political rights. I sympathize with these representations, and understand the significance that property rights have for people and the importance of such rights in the development of an effective system of local government. However, the granting of individual property rights cannot be restricted to areas outside the self-governing national states. The government is therefore prepared to negotiate with political leaders of the communities involved on the granting of property rights in the areas concerned in the Republic of South Africa and in the self-governing national states.

Steps to promote orderly urbanization and to eliminate negative and discriminatory aspects of influx control are receiving urgent consideration. It is also the government's firm intention that problems relating to the resettlement of communities will be given attention and be solved to the greater satisfaction of all those concerned.

In the constitutional field, certain decisions have been taken in the light of the investigation and negotiations of the special cabinet committee:

Firstly, cooperation with the independent states within the multilateral dispensation will, in line with the current trend, be further extended as a level at which the governments concerned are given same regard in actions by the Republic of South Africa that affect them, and vice versa.

Secondly, independence will remain the goal in the case of all the self-governing national states, but since the government does not intend forcing this on anyone, there will be increasing cooperation with self-governing national states within collective structures. In the meantime, investigations will be conducted and negotiations will be undertaken regarding further stages of autonomy between self-government and full independence.

Thirdly, the government accepts the permanence in the Republic of South Africa in large numbers of members of the black population communities who find themselves outside the national states. After thorough investigation, it is also accepted that not all these peoples can express themselves politically beyond the local level [words indistinct] the government structures of the national states. The intensive promotion of the local government system for black communities and steps to increase the credibility of existing local authorities are vital. It has therefore been decided to treat such communities for constitutional purposes as entities which in their own right, with retention of the principle that no population group should be placed in a position to rule over another, must be given political participation and a say at higher levels. Structures must therefore be developed for black communities outside the national states through which they can themselves decide on their own affairs up to the highest level. The

same bodies can serve at the various levels as groups for cooperation on matters of common interest with government bodies of the Republic of South Africa, the independent former national states, and the self-governing national states.

Four, to avoid unnecessary fragmentation at the constitutional level, the government has further decided that in the long term, efforts should be made to cooperate on matters of common interest within the same overall framework with the various political entities that find themselves within the South African context.

Five, the decisions reached regarding the constitution of black communities indicate that clarity must be reached soon on the question of citizenship. The government confirms that it is its intention to do so. For this reason the special cabinet committee has been directed to submit a report on recommendations to be based on investigation and negotiation on the problems of terminology and content that surround the question of citizenship.

From the deliberations of the cabinet committee, it became clear that communication and mutual trust between the population groups concerned must be improved if peaceful constitutional development is to be successfully pursued.

It was necessary, therefore, that the existing mechanisms or negotiations be improved and that the process of negotiations be substantially extended. In my capacity as the person with the final responsibility for matters affecting the black communities, I therefore, after consultation with those concerned, decided to supplement the activities of the special cabinet committee by establishing an informal nonstatutory forum in which interest groups and representatives of the government bodies concerned will participate on an ad hoc basis and by invitation. This forum will be chaired by the minister of constitutional development and planning. There will be open discussion on a wide range of constitutional and related matters to improve communication between the government and black communities and to create a more favorable basis for negotiations aimed at arriving at mutually acceptable development steps in the constitutional field. But none of these steps can be taken successfully without the cooperation of those whose circumstances are intended to be improved by them. I therefore expect responsible black leaders to take the hand that is being extended to them and to work together on the development of their communities and on the creation of effective structures for decisionmaking and cooperation.

[Changes to Afrikaans] We must dismantle the prejudices and mistrust that exist if we want to bridge the communication gap and have mutual talks. It takes genuine trust and courage. It also takes vision, statesmanship, and faith. I believe that responsible leaders in South Africa from the various groups can take part in this. Unfortunately, there are people inside and outside our borders who feel that their unconstitutional objectives are being frustrated by peace, progress, and stability in southern and South Africa. They will use every possible opportunity to promote disruption, chaos, and unrest at the cost of those who are prepared to serve. Such actions will be dealt with by force and in earnest.

We strive for the advancement of every South African's welfare, and the protection of everyone's security. Democratic rights and the dignity of humanity will be highest priorities.

Mr Speaker, members of Parliament, you will debate these and other matters in the various houses of Parliament and promulgate laws. Let us realize that, despite great questions which still exist, profound changes in our politics and in our socioeconomic system have been brought about. We must, despite the changes and ideological and other differences, succeed in reaching effective decisions in promoting order and stability. We must, when it is necessary for attaining the ideal of cooperative coexistence for the benefit of our country, avoid emphasizing our own interests to the detriment of others. Democratic structures are fragile. We must therefore be cautious in decisionmaking, and we should enjoy and develop them with self-control. I believe with the help of God we will be successful in the path that we have chosen.

Mr Speaker and members of Parliament, additional budget expenditures in the present fiscal year and income and expenditure budgets for the coming fiscal year will be laid before you during the present session. I ask the grace of God to guide and support us all in our deliberations.

[Changes to English] It is my prayer that the blessing of the Almighty God guide and support you in your work and in deliberations.

[Changes to Afrikaans] I declare this second session of the 8th Parliament of the Republic of South Africa duly open. [repeated in English]

Reaction to President Botha's Remarks

Treurnicht To Fight Policy

MB251750 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr Andries Treurnicht, says that in his speech the state president made it clear that political integration with black people is government policy. Dr Treurnicht said this signals the government's farewell to separate development and that the CP will fight this move in every sphere.

The chairman of the Committee of Ten, Dr Nthatho Motlana, said the full meaning of the announcements was not yet clear, but that he was cautiously optimistic. He added that there was obviously a large gap to be bridged between what was intended and what should be achieved.

Slabbert: Could Aid Debate

MB251617 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, says the pronouncements by the state president on black citizenship, home ownership, influx control, and

constitutional development could contribute to the beginning of a new and meaningful political debate on the future between blacks and whites.

Dr Slabbert says the Progressive Federal Party will probe the government during the no-confidence debate and during the present parliamentary session to determine what Mr Botha's address meant in practical political terms.

Buthelezi Rejects Forum Proposal

MB251701 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1648 GMT
25 Jan 85

[Text] Ulundi, Jan 25, SAPA — Cooperation with the idea of the "so called" forum suggested by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to discuss the issue of black citizenship, would be like "cooperating in our own political suicide." Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of KwaZulu said in Ulundi today.

"The realisation that blacks in urban areas need to be given security of tenure is welcome," he said but added that what the African majority wanted was a political say, "just as it has been extended to the other three race groups."

He said "it would be extremely irresponsible to give the government the wrong impression — that we can cooperate in our own political suicide by going into things like the so-called forum, which looks like a toothless bull-dog or at most a talking shop."

"The forum...which looks no more, no less than a talking shop is meant to divert our attention from seeking full political rights with whites, Indians and Coloreds, who want to govern us without us having a say in 87 per cent of the surface of South Africa."

While the African majority accepted the principle to give and take in negotiations about the future, "there is just no way in which we can accept being fobbed off with such lousy political crumbs," he said.

"The times for prescriptions by one race group for the rest of us are gone, never to return."

"The sooner this is realized the better are the prospects for peaceful change in South Africa," the KwaZulu leader said.

Town Council Chief Comments

MB280630 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The success of the government's implementation of the proposals in regard to blacks outside the national states, as announced by the state president, will depend on the manner and speed in which it takes place. This is the opinion of the acting director of the Association of Black Town Councils, Mr (Solly) Ramana. Mr (Ramana), who was taking part in a panel discussion on television, said unnecessary red tape in this connection would have to be eliminated.

Referring to the idea of a black forum, Mr (Ramana) said it was imperative that all groups involved should be invited to take part. Mr (Ramana) said the announcement that blacks would qualify for property ownership had been welcomed by black local authorities in particular, as such landowners could pay taxes, which will be of great economic help to local authorities.

Another speaker, the executive director of the Urban Foundation, Mr (Fred Stickling), said if the government succeeded in eliminating discriminatory aspects from its policy of influx control, it would promote goodwill among the country's various population groups. He also believed that it would help South Africa's case abroad, especially in regard to disinvestment.

AZAPO: New Constitution 'Shamocracy'

*MB251614 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1429 GMT
25 Jan 85*

[Text] Durban, Jan 25, SAPA — Remarks by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, at the opening of parliament on constitutional and socio-economic development for urban blacks re-inforced its view that the new constitution was a "shamocracy," the Azanian People's Organization said today. "The shamocracy has to make constitutional adjustments to buy time for racist South Africa," the organization said in a statement to SAPA.

The concentration on "so-called urban blacks" was remarkable in the context of apartheid's "persistent refusal to acknowledge that black people are citizens."

AZAPO said the promise of property rights for urban blacks "simply furthers the design of creating a contented middle class which will prove to be committed to racism and capitalism." "We know that the alleged progress in black communities in no way betters the position of the black working class."

At a time of severe economic crisis, the promise that the "Botha/Malan junta" would stick to its "obviously crumbling capitalist strategies" was horrifying in its implications, the statement said. Such strategies meant higher food prices, more unemployment, a general rise in the cost of living and "genocide for the black working class."

"AZAPO has always rejected political structures which try to divert the struggle from one of its prime goals, namely repossession of the land. We will be satisfied with nothing less," the statement said.

U.S. Reactions Cited

*MB260623 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Jan 85*

[Text] The United States has welcomed the announcement by state president, Mr P.W. Botha, in Parliament yesterday that comprehensive and far-reaching structures for decisionmaking and communication up to the highest level for blacks are to be created.

The White House said in a statement issued in Washington that President Botha's promise to give blacks more political influence was a clear statement of intent, and that any such pledge should be welcomed.

However, civil rights leaders in the United States dismissed Mr Botha's announcement as cosmetic concessions that have no substance. Other spokesmen said the concessions did not go far enough.

A spokesman for the civil rights group headed by the former Democratic presidential candidate, Rev Jesse Jackson, said Mr Botha's pledge is still being studied. He said that, even though it was an improvement over what blacks in South Africa had, his group was still seeking full democratic participation for the country's blacks.

Johannesburg on Botha's Proposals for Blacks

*MB280702 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 28 Jan 85*

[Station commentary]

[Text] In debate on the state president's announcement of advances affecting urban black communities and other blacks outside the national states, its context is a crucial consideration, for it has a direct bearing on the much larger question of accommodating the realities of the South African situation in such a way that the future turns out as the people desire.

It has never been more important for South Africans to have a clear vision of the major national goals that must be achieved for a future of peace, stability, and development. Never before have clarity and consensus on the necessary means for achieving those goals been more urgently required. In opening an historic session of Parliament on Friday, President Botha spoke about both goals and means, particularly with reference to the most pressing outstanding issue in South African politics — the situation of the urban black communities.

There can be no confusion about the overall goals. South Africa must fulfill her destiny in peace, satisfy the non-negotiable demand for community security and self-determination, and guarantee what, in our Christian civilization, are the generally agreed basic rights of the individual. And the preconditions for achieving that are really self-evident. The long-term security of each community is dependent on the security of all communities. Individual rights are protected to the degree that those rights are assured for all individuals.

And meeting both those requirements will be determined above all by the willingness of reasonable South Africans to work together in bringing them to fruition for all people in this country. The new parliamentary system itself reflected an acceptance, President Botha declared that one part of our population cannot on its own pursue our goals for South Africa, and cannot on its own protect our common fatherland against those things that threaten it.

All the communities, all reasonable South Africans, will have to stand together. The permanence of the urban black communities obviously has important implications — constitutional, social, and economic planning. It has been clear for some time that a program of action that fits into the overall strategy for achieving the national goals is needed to deal with those implications.

Moreover, the need both for clarity on the nature of the constitutional accommodation and for action in the social and economic spheres has become increasingly urgent. It is to fulfilling that need that the measures announced on Friday are addressed. Their implementation will be a decisive breakthrough in overcoming perhaps the most intractable political challenge with which South Africa has been faced in the long march towards achieving her goals.

Johannesburg on Wisner's Meeting With R.F. Botha
MB251732 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
 1700 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The announcements [by President P.W. Botha] are to be conveyed at high level to the American Government, the American deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Mr Frank Wisner, said after talks in Cape Town today with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha. He said that a strong South Africa was in the interests of the United States.

Mr Wisner, who has just visited Mozambique, said the United States was concerned about the security situation in that country and would help South Africa in its attempts to bring about peace in Mozambique.

Teams Sent to Mozambique To Clear Railroad
MB251622 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1440 GMT
 25 Jan 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Jan 25, SAPA — South Africa has sent technical teams and equipment to Mozambique to help clear the railway line to Maputo which has been sabotaged, a South African transport services spokesman said today.

Goods for export via Maputo have been piling up in South Africa because of the damaged line.

The spokesman said the sabotage appeared to have taken place 14 kilometres inside Mozambique. Details were "sketchy" because the technical teams had not yet returned home and information was not immediately available from the Mozambican authorities.

Thousands of tons of goods are piling up at Komatipoort, Heystekrand, Beit Bridge and other yards in the southern Transvaal, the spokesman said.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda, Wisner: Time Running Out in Southern Africa
MB280606 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
 28 Jan 85

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has said that time is running out to remedy the situation in South Africa to prevent it from exploding. If not, there will be a tragic ending. The president was speaking at State House yesterday at the beginning of talks with American deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Mr Frank Wisner.

Dr Kaunda told Mr Wisner that, although he thanked President Reagan for his efforts towards finding a solution, as evidenced by his sending Mr Wisner to the region, time was running out. The president said that he was once more taking the call to President Reagan, as someone who can provide a key contribution towards (?solving) the situation.

Dr Kaunda also called on the South African president, Mr Pieter Botha, to look at the year 1985 as a watershed during which he should not miss the opportunity for peace.

The president also praised the resumption of arms talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, saying that this has been a worrying issue for Zambia. He expressed the hope that those charged with the task of negotiation from both sides would achieve good results for the peace for mankind.

In reply, Mr Wisner concurred with Dr Kaunda's observations that 1985 had a great chance for the achievement of peace in the region. He said that southern Africa was among the top agenda for President Reagan's second term in office, and that the United States shared Zambia's opinion that time was running out for solutions in southern Africa.

Bulgaria's Prime Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit
MB280633 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
 28 Jan 85

[Text] Bulgarian Prime Minister Grisha Filipov arrived in Lusaka yesterday for a 3-day official visit. Mr Filipov, who is accompanied by his wife, will call on his excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, the party secretary general, Mr Humphrey Mulemba, and hold wide-ranging talks with the Prime Minister Munda.

He will visit the copperbelt and Zambia's tourist town of Livingstone before leaving the country on 30 January.

ZIMBABWE

Officials Hand Over MNR 'Bandits' to Mozambique

MB251703 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT

25 Jan 85

[Text] Zimbabwe's law enforcing agency has apprehended and handed over the Mozambican authorities Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] bandits who infiltrated camps for displaced Mozambicans with the intention of abducting some of the refugees.

Announcing this in Harare today, the minister of home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, said this has led to the tightening of the screening process and general security at the camp. He said the government will not allow these camps to be used as recruiting grounds [words indistinct] for the bandits who later return to Mozambique to fight the Frelimo forces. Comrade Mubako said Zimbabwean security forces along the border with Mozambique have been alerted to the (?growing) incursions into the country by the bandits.